

NOT ONLY FOR KIDS: Gina Lopez (3rd from left), managing director of Bantay Bata, is also proponent/convenor of Bantay Kalikasan, an environmental-watch group that monitors pollution with La Mesa Dam for its flagship project. With Lopez at the groundbreaking of La Mesa Ecomuseum on Thursday are HSBC's Warren Manning, Loren Legarda and Rep. Maryann Susano. Love me, love earth; think green on Valentine's Day

By Julie M. Aurelio

THINK GREEN ON Valentine's Day.

Instead of giving Belgian chocolates and champagne why not give tablea (blocks of cocoa powder) and virgin coconut oil?



## No Bantay Bata funds used for Ultra stampede victims

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Norman Bordadora

ABS-CBN BROADCASTING CORP USED THE staff but not the money of its charity arm Bantay Bata in fulfilling its obligations to the victims of the Feb. 4 stampede, the managing director of ABS-CBN Foundation said yesterday.

"I would like to emphatically state that the ABS-CBN Bantay Bata funds were not used and will never be used for the victims and their families..." said Gina Lopez, a member of the family that controls the giant broadcast network.

Lopez said that "when the disaster hap-pened," all the social workers of Bantay Bata were deployed-from the hotline, the Children's Village and the Family Strengthening Program-"to take care of the victims and those affected."

She said that daily, the social workers visited the hospitals and funeral parlors "just to make sure that the victims' needs [were] taken care of."

Lopez issued the statement in reaction to an

# Palace blinks on EO 464

GMA lets Cabinet members attend Senate budget hearing

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Armand N. Nocum

IN A MOVE ONE SENIOR adviser called a softening of her hardline position, President Macapagal-Arroyo has agreed to allow Cabinet and other government officials to appear at Monday's Senate hearings on the budget.

Malacañang announced the decision vesterday after a bloc of 17 senators, concerned about an open confrontation between the Palace and the Senate, asked the Supreme Court to stop Ms Arroyo from enforcing Executive Order 464 barring government officials from appearing at Senate or House hearings without her clearance.

But while Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez indicated that the presidential decision meant that Ms Arroyo was easing up on her position, another top Malacañang official, Political Adviser Gabriel Claudio, said the move in no way altered the Palace stance on the disputed EO.

"Cabinet and other concerned government officials will attend the budget hearing on Monday but this does not alter the government's position on EO 464," Claudio said in a text message. "Such attendance is within the context of and consistent with the judicious application of EO 464.'

Gonzalez, speaking on his regular "Hustisiya Para Sa Lahat (Justice for All)" program on radio dwIZ, looked at Ms Arroyo's decision authorizing him to appear at the Senate a different way.

The President has relented on her hardline position on this because what we are talking about here is the budget," Gonzalez said.

PALACE/ A8



WHAT PRICE SAYING IT WITH ROSES ON VALENTINE'S DAY?

In Manila, roses from Holland can go for as high as P3,800 a dozen; even the locally grown don't go for anything less than P1,500. At the Parungao Alley Extension Flower Shop in Baguio City, roses are a steal at P30 to P50 a dozen as they are practically harvested from the city's backyard, Barangay Bahong in La Trinidad, Benguet.

## Jobless Zuce finds peace, funds in art

By Fe Zamora

AS A POLL "OPERATOR," MICHELANgelo Zuce earned hundreds of thousands of pesos selling election results to the

highest bidder. But early last week, the man who claimed to have helped manipulate the May 2004 election in President Macapagal-Arroyo's favor earned the princely sum of P15,000 from his "highest bid-

The object for sale? An abstract painting that he did to fight boredom at a safe

The drop in his market value did not seem to faze Zuce. "This is not just about money. Painting has given me peace, relaxation and refuge from boredom," he

## By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A FOUR-MONTH OLD BABY. A 12year old pregnant girl. Teenagers grown street-wise to the illicit drug trade.

They were among the 59 minors caught with 260 adults during a police raid of a compound of about 40 shanties serving as "one-stop shop shabu restaurants" in Barangay Sto. Tomas in Pasig and the Eastern Police District headquar-

Pasig drug bust also netted baby, pregnant girl, 12 City Friday.

As of 5 p.m. yesterday, 210 urine samples had been taken from 319 suspects. A total of 70 samples have been processed, yielding various results-some were positive for shabu, marijuana, or both, while some were negative.

The "shabu resto" within that 600 sq. m. compound was located just half a kilometer away from the Pasig City Hall

ters. Here, drug users freely ordered grams of shabu, rented paraphernalia and used stalls for their drug sessions.

The infant was brought by a mother into one of the stalls where she was arrested, according to the head of the Philippine National Police task force that led the raid.

"The mother was caught in possession of shabu. We turned over the baby to the DSWD-Pasig City (Department of Social

Welfare and Development) and they turned it over to the grandmother," said Director Marcelo Ele, head of the Anti-Illegal Drugs and Special Operations Task

He said the pregnant 12-year-old girl was turned over to her mother. "She was very pregnant and she was so small. She was only 12," Ele said.

Aside from the two, the 57 minors ar-

## UP scientists dispute Gore's doomsday scenario

By Volt Contreras

NOT EVERYONE WAS PLEASED WITH the way former US Vice President Al Gore was given "celebrity" treatment when he spoke as a crusader against global warming in Manila.

Gore's "doomsday" pronouncements apparently received more attention than the more detailed analyses and solutions offered by Filipino environmental ex-

They also challenged and branded as "exaggerated" what the former US lead-Two scientists from the University of er said about Manila Bay "overflowing"

Too much use of ground water by typical households and establishments-not global warming-was the bigger reason the metropolis is sinking, said Dr. Carlo Arcilla and Dr. Fernando Siringan of the UP College of Science in Diliman, Que-

"There we go again. A foreign celebrity coming over for a quick visit, giving a

talk, and we are all in adulation, taking everything said as gospel truth," Arcilla said in a statement e-mailed to the IN-

Arcilla is an associate professor of geosciences and coordinator of the college's Science and Society Program. He has a Ph D in geosciences and geotechnical en-

**UP SCIENTISTS/ A20** 

the Philippines yesterday lamented how because of the greenhouse effect. 

Holle/Baceled Cloudy with Rains Roxas Cebu Gen. Santos

Cloudy with Rains Cloudy with Rains Cloudy with Rains

# Political crisis, graft worry business execs

By Ronnel W. Domingo

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with

scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Central and Eastern Visayas and Northern Min-

danao. Bicol region will have mostly cloudy skies with rainshowers. The

TIGST OF LUZON WILL BE PARTLY CLOUDY to at times cloudy with rainshowers.

LOCAL BUSINESSMEN ARE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT the country's economic prospects this year but are worried about the lingering political crisis and corruption in government, a recent survey by the Makati Business Club showed.

MBC's Executive Outlook Sur- The January survey involved 94 vey, conducted between Jan. 3 and 31, also showed that businessmen were less satisfied with the performance of a large number of government agencies in the second half of 2005.

Two administration lawmakers expressed gratification over the results of the survey.

In a joint statement, Lakas-CMD Representatives Edwin Uy of Isabela, chair of the House committee on bases conversion and development, and Eduardo Malcita of Parañaque, chair of the committee on housing and urban development, said the MBC members' optimism was proof that economic stakeholders contiffued to be upbeat about the Suntry's prospects under Presifent Macapagal-Arroyo's leader-Mp, despite the noise generated by her opponents.

The MBC surveys its members

MBC's members. According to the survey, 47.9 percent of business executives believed that the country's economy in 2006 would grow faster than the 5.1 percent growth posted in 2005.

respondents or 12.8 percent of

Also, 42.6 percent said they expected inflation to be stable at about 7.5 percent while 52.1 percent said interest rates would likely remain at the 2005 level of 6.14 percent for the bellwether 91-day Treasury bill.

However, two-fifths said the peso would slightly weaken against the US dollar this year from its end-2005 close of P53.09, although the local currency is currently performing strongly against the dollar.

Businessmen were confident about investments and exports this year, with 61.7 percent see-January and July of each year. predicting exports would grow. gave negative ratings to more mallevel of 2.1 months.

Up to 71.3 percent expect increased imports.

Businessmen, however, continued to be concerned with corruption in government as well as the legitimacy and credibility of President Arroyo.

Corruption, they said, is the country's most important challenge in the near-term while the President's legitimacy and credibility remained a key unresolved issue.

Other important issues raised by businessmen were politics and peace and order, according to the

Among the positive developments identified by the businessmen were: the appreciation of the peso, passage of the new, value added tax law, hefty inflows of remittances from abroad, and the narrower fiscal deficit.

On Charter change, MBC members remained split on whether the Constitution should be amended with 52.1 percent in favor, 30.8 percent against and 17.1 percent undecided.

The survey results indicate that many executives do not see Chacha as the solution to the issues and challenges facing the country, MBC said.

On the performance of govern-

agencies this year-23 out of the 37 agencies and institutions that were rated. The worst ratings were those of the House of Representatives (-86.2 percent), Commission on Elections (-86.2 percent) and the Senate (-81.9 percent). The Office of the President got a net rating of -40.4 percent.

The most improved agencies included the Supreme Court, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the departments of tourism, labor, justice and public works although the latter two still got negative ratings.

On corporate concerns, the MBC poll showed that more businessmen saw improved performances this year, with 77.7 percent expecting higher revenues and 62.8 percent expecting moderate profits.

Half of those surveyed said they would make additional investments this year but 58.5 said they would keep their work forces at their current sizes.

MBC said the key change in the corporate outlook was in the inventory positions as 68.2 percent of manufacturing capacity was used and the stocks of finished goods went up to three months at end-2005 while inventories of ing higher investments, and half ment agencies, the businessmen raw materials dropped to the nor-

## After credit rating boost, GMA sees peso breaking 50:\$1

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BUOYED BY THE SPECTACULAR climb of the peso and a "thumbs up" for her fiscal-reform program from a leading international credit-rating agency, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday boldly predicted that the peso would soon pierce the 50-to-thedollar mark.

"They say the natural price of the peso is actually below 50. That is what our exporters should [base] their plans on," the President said at a television forum where she extolled the recent gains of the peso and Standard and Poor's upgrade of the country's economic outlook.

The peso jumped to its highest in three-and-a-half years at 51.48 to the dollar last Friday as investors reacted positively to the S&P upgrade, apparently brushing aside rival Moody's Investor Services' decision to maintain its "negative" outlook on the Philippines despite the much-diminished political noise and the implementation of the expanded value-added tax.

The last time the peso traded below 50 was on May 30, 2002, when it registered 49.915 to the

The President made her bold prediction after Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Donald Dee, who was sitting on the panel, asked her for from Philip C. Tubeza

guidance in forecasting the peso's movement.

"We [the business community] are happy although exporters are getting hit by the peso appreciation. We know the peso will strengthen further but it will be a big help if we can only predict how much higher the peso will go," said Dee.

Ms Arroyo said the export sector should not despair over the peso's appreciation—a stronger peso makes Philippine goods more expensive abroad-because their competitiveness can be maintained by other means, such as keeping stable other cost factors like transportation and labor.

She noted that Philippine exports, led by electronic goods, rose 17 percent in December 2005 despite the peso's increase.

A Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas official said the President had based her "natural price of the peso" statement on the real effective exchange rate, that is, the rate at which a country's currency should be trading when compared with the currencies and prevailing inflation rates of neighboring countries.

The President said that "with stronger confidence brought about by our fiscal reforms, more investments will come to give new jobs to thousands of our countrymen." With a report

hike

prices

FOR THE FIRST

time since the imple-

mentation of the 12-

percent value-added

tax this month, oil

firms raised the

prices of gasoline,

diesel and kerosene

by 50 centavos a liter

and of liquefied petroleum gas by 56

centavos a kilogram. Pilipinas

Petroleum Corp. im-

plemented the increase at 12:01 a.m. yesterday and Caltex

Philippines Inc. at 6

lead today are Petron

pines Inc. and East-

ern Petroleum Corp.

Flying V and

Corp. will raise fuel

prices by the same

level at 12:01 a.m.

brings premium un-

P37.82 and P39.35 a

liter, diesel to be-

tween P31.35 and

P33.50 a liter, and

kerosene to between

P33.90 and P35.22 a

for between P502.37

and P546.16 per 11-

high international

prices and competi-

tive market forces as

reasons for the ad-

Since the start of

the year, oil firms

have hiked gasoline,

diesel and kerosene

prices three times by

a total of P1.50 a

liter. LPG prices have

risen three times as

well by P1.61 cen-

tavos per kilogram or P17.71 per 11-kilo-

gram cylinder. Abi-

gail L. Ho

kg cylinder.

justments.

LPG will now sell

The oil firms cited

The price hike

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Corp.,

Seaoil

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Petroleum

Shell

Unioil

Philip-

Petroleum

gasoline

between

## Health workers score medical care for aliens, not Pinoys firms tients if it was directed at making

#### By Christian V. Esguerra

A GROUP OF-MEDICAL WORKERS has assailed the administration's "medical tourism" program, saying Fering world-class medical treatthent to moneyed patients from abroad was "selling to foreigners what the government has virtually denied its own people."

Dr. Gene Nisperos, secretary general of the militant Health Alliance als. for Democracy, said the government was peddling medical tourism at a ime when 50 percent of Filipinos had as many as 4,000 patients

Lower Man Camp, Argonaut

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were dying without receiving any form of health care.

"Why is the Arroyo government pushing for the commercial sale of our health services when it cannot even provide for the health needs of the vast majority of Filipinos?" asked Nisperos.

Nisperos' group claims a membership of around 3,000 doctors, nurses and other health profession-

Nigeros said that the government-run Philippine Heart Center

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awaiting heart surgery in 2004 while the National Kidney and Transplant Institute had more than 180 patients lined up for kidney transplants.

"Many of these patients may die even before they get the procedures they need. What happens to these patients when PHC and NKTI open their doors to foreign patients?" Nisperos said.

He said that instead of spending more to treat charity cases to cut the backlog, the government was more concerned about improving health

facilities and services primarily to lure foreign patients.

"The so-called development under medical tourism will significantly decrease services available to charity patients, even as it opens up services to paying patients and foreigners," Nisperos said.

gram's most attractive selling to construct spas and health and point is a cheap price tag and competent doctors that come with services ranging from elective or cosmetic surgeries to lifethreatening procedures like

a heart bypass. The group said the pro-

gram could be directly beneficial to poor Filipino pa-

procedures like kidney transplant and open-heart surgery afford-Nisperos noted that a charity pa-

tient still needed to raise P500,000 for a kidney operation even if the organ was donated. Nigeros also said he was appalled

The medical tourism pro- by the Department of Health's plan wellness centers in government hospitals to further attract foreign patients.

"All of a sudden, the government has funds to pipeline such construction when it has not even added to the capital outlay of its 11 public hospitals over the last 5 years," he

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

## **SOLICITATION FOR ACCREDITATION OF** PRIVATE REALTY APPRAISERS

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- 2. Valid and current Mayor's permit/Municipal license;
- Certification as member of good standing in IPREA, PARA or
- Taxpayer's Identification Number;
- 5. Statement of the prospective appraiser for accreditation that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from participating in bidding by
- the designated representative; Business and organizational profiles, including information
- about the number of licensed personnel and trained field staff and their qualifications as well as on-going and completed government and private contracts disclosing the following:
  - a. Name and location of the contract;
  - b. Date of award and amount of the contract;
  - Contract duration;
  - in the case of a completed contract.
- For new applicants, Certification from two (2) clients in the public sector and one (1) from the private sector attesting the company's reliability and competence in the appraisal of real estate properties;
- Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediate preceding calendar year. The deadline for the submission of the Letter of Intent and the

eligibility documents shall be on 20 February 2006 at 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

Estates Department, Second Floor, NHA Main Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City or call Ms. Eutemia Onlina/Corazon Abello at the following Tel. Nos. of CIED: (02) 922-3002, (02) 928-4561 local 262 & 263

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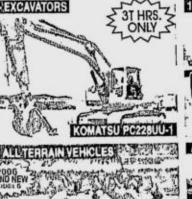
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- the GOP or any of its agencies, offices, corporation or LGUs; 6. Certification of the Board Secretary or authorization letter of
- - Certificate of satisfactory completion issued by the client,

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(PDI - Feb 12, 2006)

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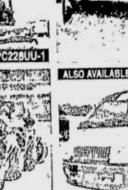
















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VARIOUS FORD 4WD

# carriers, says solon

By Philip C. Tubeza

EIGHT MILLION FILIPINO ARE carriers of the hepatitis-B virus and are unknowingly spreading the liver ailment "at an alarming rate," Sen. Pia Cayetano said yesterday, citing a World Health Organization report.

Cayetano, chair of the Senate committee on health and demography, said the WHO report showed that about six out of 10 Filipinos have at one point been exposed to the hepatitis-B virus, while a tenth of the country's population of 80 million have been contaminated by it.

This means that around eight million Filipinos are active carriers who are unwittingly spreading the virus to other people," Cayetano said.

To remedy the situation, the Senate has passed a bill sponsored by Cayetano that provides for mandatory hepatitis-B immunization for infants within 24

hours of birth, at government expense if the child is born in a state hospital. The bill also declares February of every year as "National Liver and Hepatitis-B Awareness Month."

"The liver is one of the most vital organs of the body but it happens to be among the most 'neglected' among us Filipinos," she said. "Liver ailments have become a serious public health concern, particularly hepatitis-B, which is spreading at an alarming rate, although most of us are unaware or choose not to take precautions."

Cayetano noted that while the virus infects people mostly during infancy and childhood, it manifests itself only when the victims reach adulthood, "and often with grim results."

The virus has been known to lead to liver cancer and cirrhosis. Studies have shown, for instance, that around 70 percent of liver cancer cases originated from hepatitis-B, she said.

Day, in the church convent.

Fr. Jose Joey Belciña, in his 30s

The complainant, 18 and a

The girl, a hotel and restaurant management student at a Danao City college and a resident of the city, claimed she was first molested by the priest on July 22, 2005, when she was 17 years old. She said this was repeated on Dec. 25, 2005 and on Jan. 28 this year.

Belcina, in a television interview Friday, denied raping the girl, saying he was surprised by the allegation.

He refused to comment further when the Inquirer reached him at the convent yesterday. A man claiming to be an assistant at the church, Dennis Puebla, said the priest was in his hometown of Dalaguete at-

Puebla said the girl did not stay

at the convent but it was Belciña

that since Belciña was paying her school fees, they agreed that she would help with chores at the convent and do errands in her free time or after classes.

She said that on July 22, 2005, she entered Belciña's room to clean it and found the priest inside.

her and when she protested, he point-

The girl said that after raping her, he warned her not to tell anyone. She said that after the incident, she stopped going to the convent and would get her school allowance through the priest's brother, who also lived at the convent, or from a friend of the priest's.

On Christmas Day, however, she said she went to the convent after the cook asked her to help

She said she went to the dining area where Belciña had just finished eating. The priest, she said, told her to

She said the priest joined her

She said the third time she was abused occurred when she went to the convent on Jan. 28 at around 7 p.m. to ask Belciña for money for a school project.

## 8M Pinoys hepa-B UP prof named to UN advisory body

By Gerry Lirio

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPpines professor Carolina Hernandez has been invited to sit in the body advising the United Nations secretary general on global security and disarmament.

Hernandez, the political science professor who helped investigate the December 1989 coup and the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny, was appointed for a renewable two-year term, according to a letter sent Jan. 20 by UN Secretary General Kofi Anan.

The 64-year-old Hernandez said she has accepted the ap-

"I am both flattered and intimidated by the appointment," she

Hernandez will fly to New York



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March 11, 2006

March 18, 2006

March 25, 2006

to May 11, 2006

April 03 up

DAY

Saturday

Saturday

Saturday

Saturday

Saturday

everyday

Monday Saturday

8-12

8-1281-5

8-1281-5

8-1281-5

SCHEDULE OF UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

to formally accept the appointment and be introduced at the opening of a three-day session of the Advisory Board for Disarmament Matters this month.

As a member of the 22-person advisory board, Hernandez will advise Anan on arms limitation and disarmament and serve the

board of trustees of the United lations from the UP. Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

The board meets twice a year for a three-day session each in New York and Geneva.

Hernandez is joining the UN body in a private capacity, not as a government representative. It is a non-paying job, but the UN takes care of transport and hotel expenses.

Anan's letter did not say how Hernandez came to be chosen. It said the advisory board was composed of "high-level personalities with knowledge and expertise in the field of disarmament and international security, drawn from governmental and non-governmental circles around the world."

Hernandez graduated cum laude with a degree in foreign re-

She studied political philosophy at the Duke University in North Carolina and also pursued advanced studies at the State Uni versity of New York in Buffalo.

At Suny she wrote a paper on civil-military relations in the Philippines and its implications for the country's political devel; opment, which found its way into the hands of martyred opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr. who was then living in exile in Boston. Aquino flew to San Francisco, California, in April 1983 to meet Hernandez.

Aquino cited Hernandez's paper when he reported on the atrocities of the Marcos regime before the US congressional committee headed by Democratic Rep. Stephen Solarz.

## Teen charges Danao City parish priest with rape By Jhunnex Napallacan who paid for her studies. PDI Visayas Bureau CEBU CITY - A PARISH PRIEST in Danao City has been accused of raping a teenage girl thrice in the

last year, including on Christmas

and parish priest at St. Francis of Assisi in Barangay Maslog, Danao City, was accused of rape in the Danao City Prosecutor's Office on Friday.

working student being sent to school by the priest, filed the case with the help of the Cebu-based Legal Alternatives for Women Inc. (Law-Inc.) Center.

tending the town fiesta.

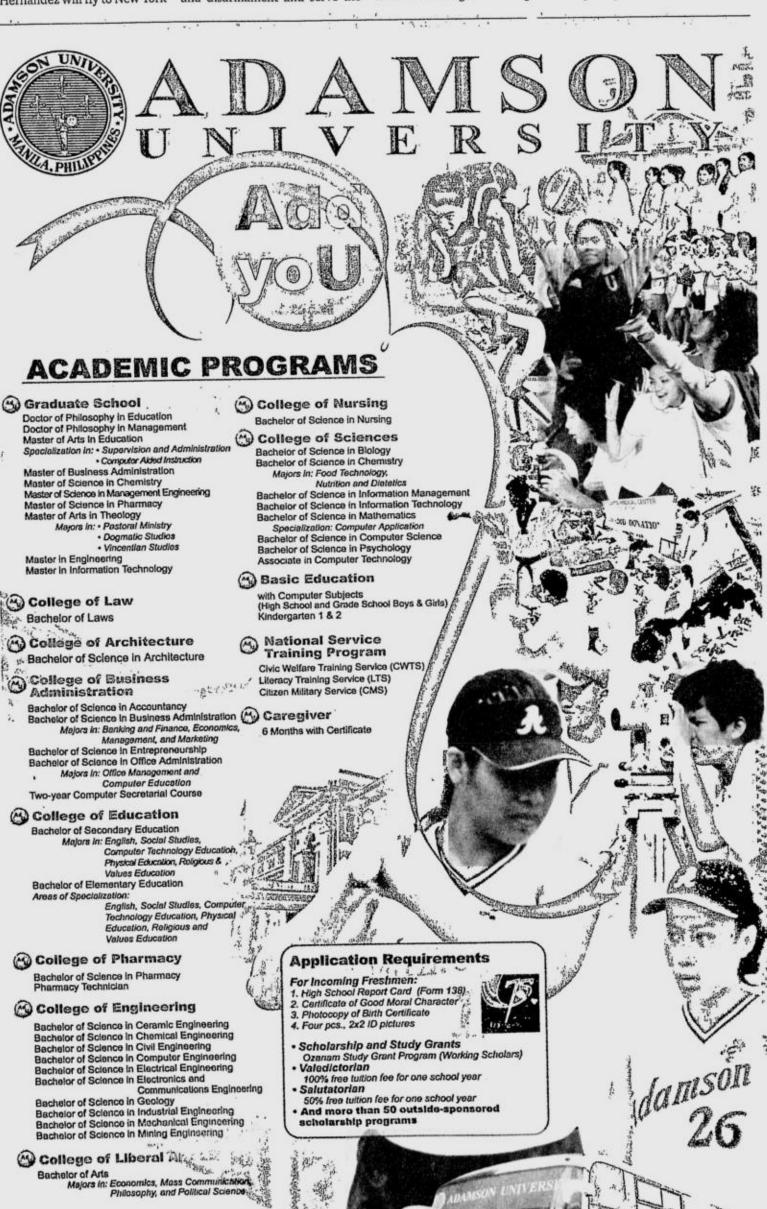
The girl, in her affidavit, said

She said Belciña began molesting ed to a gun by his bed's headboard.

with the Christmas party.

go to his room to wash his underwear.

there, told her to give him a massage and then molested her again.



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USAID/Manila will conduct a Sealed Bid Sale of used residential furniture/equipment, appliances, and computer equipment, on an "AS IS-WHERE IS" basis.

All items can be inspected on February 13 & 14, 2006 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Last day of sale will be on Wednesday, February 15, 2006 from 8:30 to 2:00 p.m. at USAID Warehouse, 2345 Aurora Blvd. (formerly Tramo St.), Pasay City. Bid forms are available at the site. Submission of bids and cash deposits (20% of the total bid) can be done at the site during the sale. Full payment and bid deposit refunds will be on Friday, February 17, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the USAID/Cashier, 8th floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

For further information, please call Mr. Romy S. Arquisola or Mr. Alfredo Q. Daluz at Tel. Nos. 852-96-84, 514-4229, 514-4234 and 514-4236.

(PDI-Feb. 4,5, 11 & 12, 2006)

(PDI - Fob. 12, 2006)

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THE PERSON SERVICES TRANSPORTED **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2006** 

## Boracay needs new dev't plan-study

#### By Jerome Aning

THE RESORT ISLAND OF BORACAY WILL realize its full potential as a "world class" tourism destination to rival premier locations like Bali or Phuket once an updated development plan is put in place, according to a study commissioned by the International Finance

The study was made by a team of Philippine and German consultants contracted by the IFC, the investment arm of the World Bank, to conduct an analysis of investment opportunities on Boracay.

The study suggested that a stronger strategic tourism marketing and promotion effort and crucial changes in tourism infrastructure

would make Boracay a better "world class" island resort.

There is an urgent need to update the 1990 Boracay Master Development Plan and to redesign the marketing strategy to make the island more visible and accessible to tourists from around the world," said IFC country manager Vipul, Bhagat.

The study was funded by the German state of Bavaria. The team included local and international specialists from a wide range of disciplines, from sustainable tourism to wastewater management.

Winfried Werner of Obermeyer, an urban and regional planning expert, headed the team's German members while the Filipinos were led by former Tourism Secretary Mina

Gabor, president of the Philippine Small and Medium Business Development Foundation.

The study said the development plan must be improved to address the critical issues facing Boracay, and tourism-related investments must be packaged accordingly.

These issues include migration, zoning, lack of health facilities and medical personnel, visual and noise pollution, solid waste water management, energy supply, and intraisland and inter-island transport.

Considered critical to any development plan for Boracay is the improvement of Caticlan town as a major commercial and business district to ease the strain on Boracay's resources from the influx of migrants and



Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

#### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC). invites suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project.

Supply of Services thru outsourcing of the following positions; 11) Sixteen (16) General Clerks, Ten (10) Dala Encoders and Name of Project One (1) Messenger 2) Thirty-Seven (37) Plant Workers

Approved Budget for the Contract 1) P1,460,000.00 or P10,000.00/month 2) P2,200,000.00 or P9,909.91/month

Per BSP Terms of Reference Contract Duration

Prospective bidders should have undertaken similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use nondiscretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Schedule Activities February 10-23, 2008 (up to 2PM only) 1. Issuance of Bid Documents February 24, 2006 9:30AM 2. Pre-Bid Conference March 14, 2006 2:00PM 3. Opening of Bids ) These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods ) allowed in the Implementing Rules & 5. Post-qualification Regulations (IRR)-A ) of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003 6. Notice of Award Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount equivalent to .05% of the ABC for each Item or a minimum of

P500.00 but not to exceed P50,000.00 to the BSP Cashier The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to roject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.

Social Housing Finance Corporation

## a subsidiary of National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation

## INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC), a corporate subsidiary of the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation, located at Filomena Building, 104 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City is inviting interested parties to prequalify and participate in the forthcoming public bidding for the outsourcing of the screening/hiring of applicants/candidates for its various

The checklist for prequalification documents may be obtained from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at the 4th Floor, Filomena Bldg., during office hours from February 13-15, 2006. Prospective bidders shall be advised in due course of the results of their applications for the pre-qualification.

Only bidders who are prequalified can get copies of the Terms of Reference and attend the pre-bidding conference on February 17, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. 5th Floor, Board Room.

The SHFC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, disqualify any bidder or to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Corporation or annul the bidding process anytime prior to the award of the bid without incurring any liability to the affected bidders or stating the grounds for SHFC action.

For further information/clarification on the above matters. please contact the Administration Department at telephone numbers 893-1501 local 290 and 893-0491.

> (Sgd.) ATTY. FERMINT. ARZAGA SHFC President

(PDI--Feb. 12, 2006)



## CAGELCO II INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (CAGELCO II) is

- inviting all interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the following: KWH Meters and Distribution Transformers for the Single Digit
  - System Loss Reduction Program of the cooperative. To be qualified, bidder must have fully complied with the following:
    - Accreditation Requirements (for submission to the Accreditation Committee Chairman, Clarence E. Jacinto)
      - Company Profile Business Registration
        - e. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR) f. List of Clients for a period of three (3) years if applicable
    - **Business Permit** BIR/VAT Certificate
  - 2. Must be able to pay P2,000.00 (for this particular bidding only and not refundable) for bid documents during the pre-bid conference.

CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bid without any reason, waive any formality therein, accepts proposal most advantageous to the cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Pre-bid conference and bidding schedules shall be informed to all qualified bidders through fax and mails.

Deadline for submission of requirements - February 20, 2006.

(Sgd.) GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS General Manager

(PDI - Feb. 5 & 12, 2006)



Republic of the Philippines Department of Social Welfare and Development Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills Quezon City Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

#### INVITATION TO BID

The TRUSTEE COMMITTEE for the Welfareville Property, through the Welfareville Development Project Bids and Awards Committee (WDP-BAC), is inviting interested parties to participate in the bidding for the sale of a portion of the Welfare property located in Mandaluyong City known as Parcel 1-East Side with an approximate area of 718,313 square meters with a value of Php19,000 per square meter as the

Interested parties may submit their Letters of Intent not later than 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon March 24, 2006 and address the same for the attention of:

The Chairperson Welfareville Development Project Bids and Awards Committee (WDP-BAC) c/o Asset Management Group, Ground Floor DSWD New Building, Constitution Hills Diliman, Quezon City

The Bid Documents/Terms of Reference (TOR) for the sale of said Parcel 1 shall be ready for distribution on February 20, 2006 at a non-refundable cost of Php 5,000.00 for each Bid Documents/TOR payable to DSWD in cash or manager/s check. The Bid Documents/TOR shall be obtained from Director M. Nicomedes J. Castillo, Asset inagement Group at the abovementioned address, telefax no. 931-9145 or tel. no. 931-8101 loc. 142

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 2:00 p.m. on March 24, 2006, at the Boardroom, 4th Floor, DSWD New Building, Constitution Hills, Diliman, Quezon City. Only those who have submitted Letters of Intent and secured the Bid Documents/TOR shall be allowed to participate in the Pre-Bid Conference

Deadline for submission of bids is 2:00 p.m. on May 19, 2006. Immediately thereafter, or at 2:01 p.m., the bids shall be opened. Submission of bids and opening thereof shall be at the Boardroom, 4th Floor, DSWD New Building, Constitution Hills, Dillman,

The TRUSTEE COMMITTEE, through the WDP-BAC, reserves the right to reject any or all Letters of Intent or bids without offering any reason, waive any defect or required formality therein assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify a bidder for any expenses or losses that he may have incurred in the preparation of the Letter of Intent or bid or resulting from such preparation, and accept the bid which is deemed most responsive and advantageous to the government

(Sgd.) ATTY. ERWIN L. TIAMSON DENR Chairperson, WDP-BAC

(PDI - Fob. 12, 19 & 25, 2006)



Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

#### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP) invites A & E Consultants to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the Architectural and Engineering Design Consultancy

Services for the proposed BSP Branch Building in Zamboanga City. Approved Budget for the Contract is P6,080,000.00 The scope of work includes among others the preparation of plans, specifications and detailed estimates to include architectural, electrical, mechanical, structural,

electronies and communications, plumbing/sanitary and landscaping works as specified in the Terms of Reference (TOR) The minimum eligibility requirements are as follows:

1.0 The firm must have been in operation for the last fifteen (15) years (reckoned from the date of the first and advertisement/posting of this invitation

- 2.0 The firm must have rendered within the last ten (10) years (reckoned from the date of the first advertisement/posting of this Invitation) A & E design consultancy services, at least three (3) completed new construction projects of similar nature like office buildings, banks, exchanges and financial institutions of similar magnitude as the proposed BSP projects and must be able to submit a certification of satisfactory performance for at least two (2) of the required
- 3.0 The principal or Managing Officer must be a Registered Architect with at least twenty (20) years experience in Architectural design and coordinating team
- 4.0 The key personnel should be Registered Architect/s and Engineer/s with at least filteen (15) years design experience
- 5.0 In the case of Foreign Consultants, the firm (partnership/corporation/joint venture) must be at least 60% owned by Filipino citizens. Foreign consultants must be registered with SEC and/or any agency authorized by the laws of the Philippines
- 6 0 In case of a joint venture, a valid joint agreement. The joint venture must have rendered A & E design consultancy services for at least two (2) completed projects of similar magnitude as the proposed BSP project.

The quality-cost based evaluation procedure stipulated in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA No. 9184 shall be adopted for this consultancy service Firms which currently have two (2) or more active consultancy contracts with

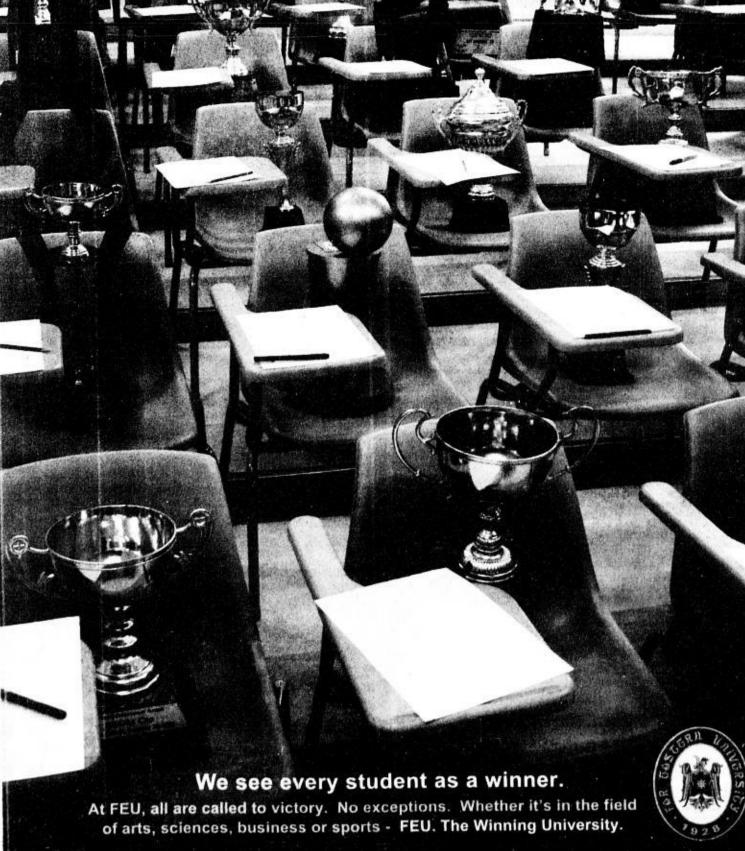
the BSP are not eligible to bid for this project. Eligibility documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat for a nonrefundable fee of P500.00, Room 204, 2nd Floor, Five-Storey Building at the BSP

Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P Ocampo Streets, Manila and must be submitted duly accomplished to the same office not later than 1 30 P.M. on March 7, 2006 The provisions of Republic Act No 9184 and its Implementing Rules and

Regulations relative to the bidding and award of contract shall apply

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof , to waive defect or any formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any consultant/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP Furthermore, BSP is not obliged to compensate/indemnity the consultant for any expenses or less that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUNIGA, JR. Chairman



Entrance exams every Saturday for FEU-Main, 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. • 4,000 scholarship grants available Far Eastern University • Nicanor Reyes Street, Sampaloc, Manila • Tel. 736-0036 • Website: www.feu.edu.ph

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Tel. 735-5643 • Website: www.feu-eastasia.edu.ph



FEU-FERN College Sampaguita Avenue, Mapayapa Village, Diliman, Quezon City • Tel. 931-1453

(PDI - Feb 12 & 28, 2008)

## Don't blame PAL pullout on me, says ex-Laoag exec

By Cristina Arzadon

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—FORMER MAYOR ROGER FARIfias is outraged the impending suspension of Philippine Airlines' Manila-Laoag-Manila flights was being blamed on him. He said the company should review its procedures and adopt corrective measures in handling passenger reservations.

Fariñas took exception to an INQUIRER report yesterday that Lucio Tan, PAL owner and president, was so infuriated over Pariñas alleged bullying of an airline employee that he ordered the suspension of flights to and from Laoag starting Feb. 13.

flights to and from Laoag starting Feb. 13.

"Why am I being blamed for the cancellation? This (confrontation) was a trivial matter that was blown out of proportion," Fariñas told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

The former three-term Laoag mayor denied berating or threatening to pull a gun on a PAL customer relations officer (CRO) while he was at the Laoag International Airport on Feb. 3 to see off his wife, Asuncion, and her secretary who were bound for Manila.

Fariñas said he would ask for a meeting with PAL officials on Monday to set the record straight.

Because of the incident, other PAL employees reportedly refused to work at the Laoag airport, causing the airline to issue a statement that it would suspend flights to and from Laoag "due to lack of staff willing to serve" at the airport.

"PAL should explain the real reason for its pullout. It should not lay the blame on me, instead, it must address its chaotic handling of the passengers' seat reservations," Fariñas said.

Recounting his version of the incident, Farifias said his wife and her secretary were waiting at the pre-departure area when they were told that they could not get on the flight as their boarding passes bore different names.

The CRO (a man, according to Fariñas, and not a woman as the report said) advised Mrs. Fariñas to buy another ticket and request a refund from her travel agency.

It was at this point that Fariñas said he stepped in and asked why they were being made to buy new tickets.

Fariñas said he asked for Ruben Ablan, the airport's ground handler, to clear up the matter as the CRO claimed it was Ablan who had issued instructions that no passengers would be allowed to board if there were discrepancies in their passes.

"I asked Ablan why we needed to buy another ticket and to ask for a refund when the tickets we bought were under the name of Fariñas anyway. Why not change the names instead?" he said.

Ablan told him he had spoken to the CRO and everything had been ironed out and that his wife could take the flight, Fariñas said.

According to him, Ablan sounded apologetic. "Ignore the incident, mayor. He is a Tagalog, he does not recognize you," Fariñas quoted Ablan as telling him.

# Anticlotting drug recalled

PARIS – SANOFI-AVENTIS ANNOUNCED TOday that as a precautionary measure, it was recalling 30 batches of the anticoagulant enoxaparin (brand names Lovenox and Clexane) worldwide.

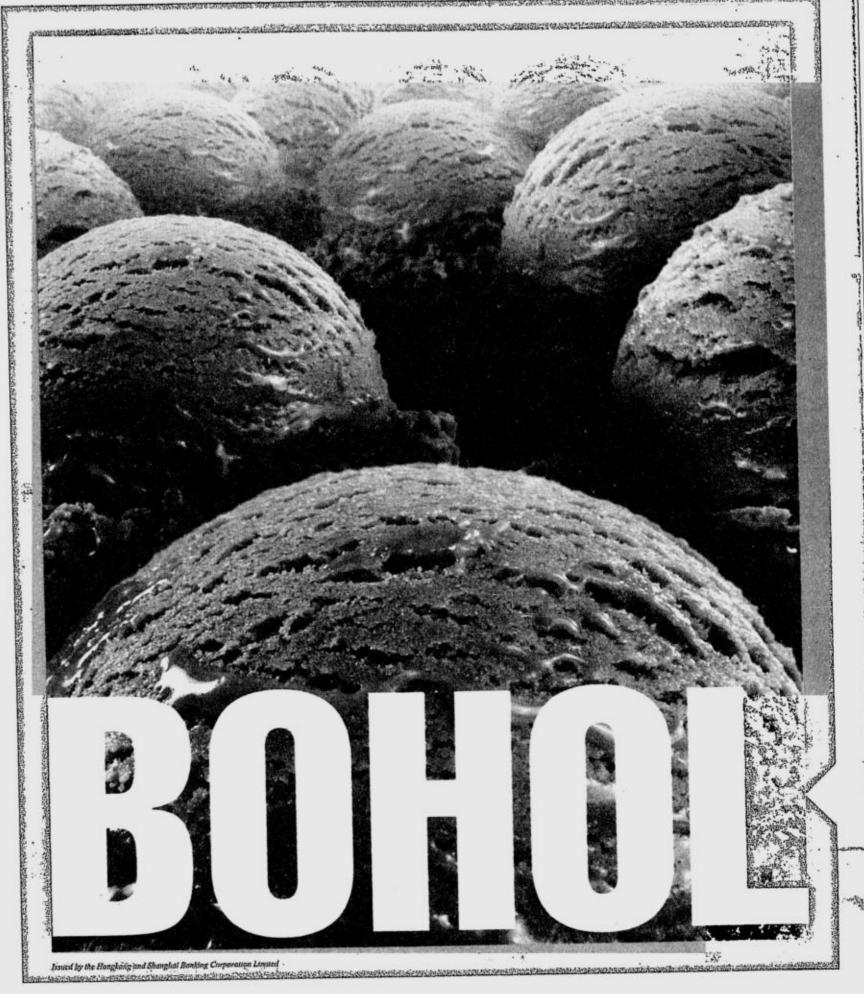
In the Philippines, only two batches among the 30 batches are affected by the recall.

The recall concerns batches filled at a single facility and delivered to Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa.

It is important to note that the enoxaparin active ingredient is not the subject of the recall, Sanofi-aventis said.

The drug firm said it does not anticipate an impact on the availability of enoxaparin, which is an anticoagulant of the "low molecular weight heparin" class. It is used to inhibit clot formation in venous or arterial vessels and to avoid potential pulmonary embolism, myocardial infarction or death of cardiovascular origin.

For more information, Sanofi-aventis in the Philippines may be reached at 1-800-1888-1550 or 02893-1550.



Want to fly for free? Then use your Mabuhay Miles Visa and earn Miles on everything you buy - even ice cream.

Still don't have one? Just call 885-7590 to 93 or visit www.hsbc.com.ph to apply.

It's free for the first year – so act now. Ikaw rin...sayang ang Wiles!







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## Victims, witnesses give stories but won't sue

## 'Some of those in line were electrocuted; the gate was grounded, a live wire was exposed'

By Tina G. Santos

A NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE responded to the call of the National Bureau of Investigation for eyewitness accounts of the stampede that marked the first anniversary of ABS-CBN's "Wowowee."

But most of them said they did not intend to file any complaint tal," she said. against the broadcast network or the organizers of the daily game show.

Carmen Balawang, a fish vendor of Bayanan, Muntinlupa, who braved the crowd and survived the stampede at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City, said she had decided to narrate what actually happened.

"Some people are giving false information and are only taking advantage of the situation to claim money," Balawang, 41, told reporters in Filipino.

Balawang was reported missing after the stampede, prompting her relatives to have her picture published in the newspapers.

"They thought I was among those who died," she said.

According to Balawang, she saw many of those who were standing next to her die, crushed by the frenzied crowd.

"I really prayed hard to be saved because I wanted to live for my daughter and my husband, who just got out of hospi-

#### Promise to mother

Balawang said she had decided to line up for the game show because she wanted to help her mother, who lives in the province.

"I promised her that if I won, I would replace the roof of her house with galvanized steel. The roof is made only of old canvas," she said while showing reporters her raffle ticket (No. 08733).

Balawang also claimed to have seen someone die of electrocution while trying to clamber atop a waiting shed.

"She accidentally got hold of a live wire and fell," Balawang said, adding:

noring the dead and still trying to enter the arena. It was such an ugly sight."

The Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption urged the NBI to look into the possibility that some of those who perished might have been electrocuted before being trampled to death.

This came following witnesses' accounts claiming that the main gate was grounded.

Neil Katubig, one of the survivors presented by the anticrime group to the media yesterday afternoon, said he saw an orange wire spark near the gate on Capt. Henry Javier Street on Feb. 3, the day before the stampede.

"It was about 4 p.m. on Friday when I saw it spark," Katubig said, adding that he was at the gate when it happened.

He also said that on the night of Feb. 3, some of those in the queue were electrocuted because the wire was left unattended by the security guards.

"They did not change or even

"Some people were even ig- cover the wire with electric ple. tape," he said.

Another survivor, Imelda Aguilar, claimed that she herself felt that the gate was grounded when she accidentally brushed against it with her upper right

Aguilar, 55, also claimed to have seen two elderly balikbayan women shaking when they were shoved against the gate during the stampede.

She said she asked the women, whom she had befriended, what the matter was.

"They told me they were dizzy, and then they became unconscious when people started to push and shove," Aguilar said.

#### 'Deception'

VACC chair Dante Jimenez said he had asked NBI officer in charge Nestor Mantaring to look into the matter.

Jimenez said that if true, such accounts would show not only laxity in security but also the "deception" inflicted on the peo-

"We have to find out whether [the gate was grounded] on purpose so that people would not be able to [scale it]," he told the Inourrer by phone.

Jimenez also said he would request the exhumation of the women's bodies for investigation. The bodies were said to have been buried in Dumaguete

#### No complaint

Balawang, who claimed to be an avid fan of "Wowowee" host Willie Revillame, said no one should blame the network or the event organizers because the crowd had become so unruly prior to the stampede.

She said she had no plans of filing a complaint against ABS-

"I have only myself to blame. And those other people who went there should not blame anybody," Balawang said.

"Many climbed on the mesh fence and on the roof of a wait-

ing shed. They were really hardheaded. They would not listen to the security personnel," she

Most of the other witnesses said just meeting Revillame in person would make them feel

"Idol namin siya; wala siyang kasalanan (He's our idol; he has no fault in this)," they said. Ferdinand Lavin, executive officer of the NBI National Capital Region, said the bureau welcomed the witnesses' state-

"We cannot compel them to file complaints. That's their prerogative. But the government can file it on their behalf," Lavin told reporters.

"As of now, they may be preoccupied with a lot of things, like undergoing treatment or [attending to the] burial of their kin. But later, they may realize that they should [file a complaint] to be settled," he added.

With a report from Jocelyn R.

## Love me ...

"Love me, love the earth," is the passionate cry of greenies this month.

The Ecological Waste Coalition of the Philippines has asked the public to be responsible consumers and consider earth-friendly

ways of marking Valentine's Day.

Ecowaste is a network of community, church, school, environmental and health NGOs dealing with waste and pollution issues. Many purchases made during Valentine's Day generate a substantial amount of trash, Ecowaste chair Eileen Sison told the Inquirer

in a phone interview.
"Consider the planet when buying Valen-tine gifts. Honor Mother Earth by buying products that will not put our environment at risk," said Chin-chin Gutierrez, actress and wice chair of the Mother Earth Foundation.

#### **Eco-friendly tips**

Sison listed these environment-friendly tips on how to celebrate Valentine's Day:

Connect with nature. Take a trip to the farm, a park or ecotourism site. Bring along packed meals of local, organic and healthy food. · Write a love letter or Valentine poem. Think of creative ways to say "I'm so lucky to Have you!" that will not strain the environment or your wallet.

• Give local sweets like "pastillas" and candied fruits. If he/she prefers chocolate, give tablea made from organic cacao beans. Sweeten cakes and drinks with muscovado (brown sugar).

 Buy accessories made from local, natural and renewable materials. Consider necklaces and earrings fashioned from recycled matericals. The production of gold jewelry entails huge amounts of mine waste, which disfigfires the earth, displaces communities and poses health risks.

Go for pesticide-free flowers. Give plants that are easy to maintain. The Manila Seedling Bank Foundation (Quezon Ave. corner Edsa) sells r-fruit-bearing, flowering and forest tree saplings.

· Opt for clothing, bathing and sleeping materials made of 100 percent cotton or other "natural fibers. Avoid "no-iron" or "easy care" garments that contain formaldehyde (a known carcinogen).

 Avoid cosmetics with harmful chemicals. 'Give a body-care basket of virgin coconut oil, herbal soap, gugo shampoo, loofah, tawas (alum) and pumice stone.

 Dine the organic way. Patronize restaurants that serve organic food and do not offer any endangered species on their menu.

Sison admitted that some of the tips were not readily available or could be expensive, like pesticide-free flowers or organic food.

"But if these eco-friendly products were available, then people would start using · them," she said.

This, Gutierrez said, would send signals to manufacturers to produce earth-friendly products a..d would give consumers a range of healthier options.

## Love the planet

Love should not be limited to human beings, but should also include love for the planet, Gutierrez told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

"It's hard to make people take environment-related advisories seriously. But people tend to listen on Valentine's Day. It is the day Çof hearts," Sison said.

Sison's group is not the only one calling for earth-friendly Valentine gifts.

In Washington, the Organic Consumers Association is urging a boycott of traditional Yalentine's gifts in favor of organic and

fair-trade chocolate and flowers.

"Most Americans have no idea what goes Into these Valentine's Day gifts," said Ronnie Cummins, the group's national director.

The group noted that major cocoa suppli-ers were accused in a lawsuit of benefiting From child slave labor in cocoa bean planta-

tions in the Ivory Coast. In addition, Organic Consumers said, a In addition, Organic Consumers said, a grudy showed that flower workers in Ecuador had been sickened from pesticide use. With a report from AP

## No Bantay Bata funds used for Ultra stampede victims From page Al

INQUIRER report on Saturday that raised questions on ABS-CBN's alleged use of its charity arm to get donations for its compensation of the stampede victims.

She said it was the network that was "shouldering all the victims' funeral services, medical expenses, as well as plans for medium- and long-term assis-

"ALL-I repeat, ALL-the financials have come from ABS-CBN, the network," she said.

#### Special fund

Lopez said that while ABS-CBN had "not solicited any kind of material help" for the victims, it had accepted donations and put these in "a special fund dedicated for this purpose."

"My employees and that of the network, even my brother Gabby (ABS-CBN chair and CEO), and the executives themselves have personally gone out and attended to the victims," she said, adding:

"We are committed to our role in this situation.

"I must say I do not appreciate some quarters targeting ABS-CBN Bantay Bata's integrity while the facts say other-

Lopez also said Bantay Bata was "undertaking an intense anti-malnutrition program in Metro Manila and in the 12 depressed areas of the country."

She said they would increase services in the Children's Village, and launch chapters in Bicol and Zamboanga.

## No accusation

Michael Defensor, President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief of staff, clarified that he was not pointing an accusing finger at ABS-CBN when he agreed with the point raised by the Inquirer that it would not be proper for the network to use Bantay Bata funds for the stampede

He said a Bantay Bata official had told him "she would have answered in the same way."

"Bantay Bata is really for the support of child victims of violence and hunger," Defensor said. "There are different donors-individual or corporate-that support Bantay Bata, but it is not for them to compensate the victims because that is really [the role of] ABS-CBN."

Defensor said he had previously commended the ABS-CBN management for taking responsibility for the tragedy. He also said he was well aware that Bantay Bata was "only being used for social work to help the victims injured and affected by the stampede."

Earlier, an official of a major corporation, who requested anonymity, told the INQUIRER that it had issued a check for the stampede victims in the name of Bantay Bata.

## 'We are coping'

Tina Monzon-Palma, program director of Bantay Bata, told the Kapihan sa Sulo news forum that ABS-CBN executives had been emotionally affected by the crisis brought about by the stampede but were managing to think clearly to deal with the many issues facing the corporation.

"We are coping," Palma said when asked how ABS-CBN was doing after the tragedy and the flak that followed. "I've not seen a team of people who may get emotional at times [yet still] think very clearly on what our priorities are as a business organization and a media organization."

## Gonzalez: ABS-CBN looking for someone to blame

#### By Armand Nocum

ON HIS RADIO PROGRAM "Hustisya Para sa Lahat (Justice for All)" on radio dwIZ, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez decried alleged efforts by ABS-CBN to influence public opinion as well as the outcome of the investigation on the stampede that killed more than 70 people and injured hundreds

"You'll notice now the trend of what ABS-CBN is doing: They are injecting things which would tend to mitigate

their responsibility," he said, adding: "The tendency now is to look for

somebody to blame [other than] those on their side. "Every day in their news program, they interview somebody who speaks

in their favor." Gonzalez said the network had been harping on the fact that the Pasig police and local government should have helped in crowd control even without formal meetings with the

show organizers. He acknowledged that the police

could have provided help on their own: "That is true. The police have an obligation to help in times of trouble without being asked to do so."

Gonzalez also said he had ordered an investigation of certain police officials who allegedly stopped National Bureau of Investigation agents from conducting an autopsy on some of those killed in the stampede.

"I don't know what's wrong there. Why would one agency try to prevent the NBI from doing its work?" he said.

Palma would not directly address the issue of whether the other media firms, including its competitor-network, GMA-7, had been fair in the treatment of their reports on the stampede and the circumstances surrounding it.

She said it was up to the public to draw its own conclusions on what was fair media coverage under the circum-

But as far as the network was concerned, she said: "We are struggling. We are doing our best.'

funds were not used to pay for the victims' needs. "The funds we have been using in as-

Palma reiterated that Bantay Bata

sisting the stampede victims come from the ABS-CBN network," she said. She added that "in due time," the network would present data providing details on how expenditures for the vic-

## tims were sourced and spent.

Very useful' Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Richard Fadullon told the same news forum that while the investigation report submitted by Task Force Ultra on the stampede was incomplete, it may still serve a purpose in the victims'

search for justice. "I think it would be unfair to say that what the task force and [Interior] Undersecretary (Marius) Corpus had done was useless," Fadullon said.

"The facts that they had gathered, the statements that they had taken, the interviews that they had made would be very useful as leads for the conduct of a more exhaustive investigation. In that sense, I will categorically say that it was not useless," he added.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez had earlier said the report submitted last week by the fact-finding team led by Corpus was insufficient.

In its report, the fact-finding team blamed the ABS-CBN organizers for their failure to ensure the safety and welfare of the estimated 30,000 people who showed up as early as three days before the airing of the first anniversary special of the daily game show "Wowowee."

With only 72 hours to work with, the inter-agency task force came up with a narrative of how the stampede occurred and recommendations on how to prevent a recurrence.

But it did not include such documentary evidence as death certificates and witnesses' sworn statements.

## Out-of-court settlements

Speaking on Vice President Noli de Castro's radio morning show over dzMM, Palma also said ABS-CBN would be open to out-of-court settlements with the families of the stampede victims if they would eventually file cases

against the network. Asked by the INQUIRER about the cov-

erage of the prospective settlements, Palma said by phone: "It's an option but as of this time, no lawyer has talked to us about a case." She said it would still be premature o talk about the extent of the settle-

ments if no cases had been filed by the victims against ABS-CBN. "As of now I have not heard of any case yet except that of Dante Jimenez

and VACC (Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption)," she said. Palma also said that during interviews with the victims' families to assess the kind of assistance they needed,

no one had raised the subject of the legal process. She said that during those interviews, some of the victims were appreciative, while others showed

We are now in the process of profiling all the victims to determine the kind of help the network could extend to the families, because each family has its own needs," she said.

The VACC has set up help desks to assist and advise those victims who may be planning to file a class suit against ABS-CBN.

"Maybe after the burial, or on Monday, someone could already be knocking on our door," Palma said. With a report from Nancy C. Carvajal



COMMEMORATING the first week of the Ultra stampede, cause-oriented groups offer Mass, prayers and wreaths for the **EDWIN BACASMAS** 

victims at the People Power Monument on Edsa.

GEORGIA CLUB:

# MASTERPLANNING LIFE AT THE UPPER CRUST

The masterplan for Georgia
Club takes on a comprehensive
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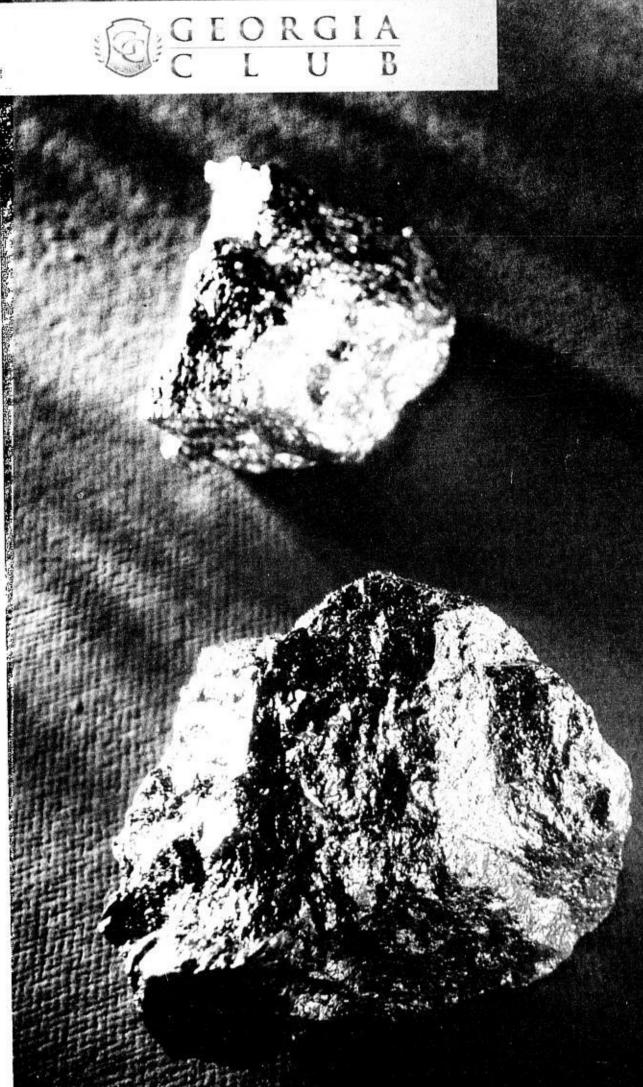
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## EO 464 aims to humiliate Drilon, says senator

Sealathille sells a speech contournamen

ELECTION TO A LANGUAGE STATE OF THE A C.

THE ROW OVER EXECUTIVE to the Senate but we don't buy, Order 464 is actually a quarrel between President Macapagal-INQUIRER yesterday.

The senator, who requested anonymity because of his position, said the "target" of the controversial executive order was Drilon and not the Senate.

The lawmaker said the President was trying to impress on Drilon that he could not "conspire" and use the budget hearings "in the effort to oust" Ms Arroyo from power.

"All the play here now is: Malacafiang is not after the Senate. It is after Drilon. (Ms Drilon and tell him 'You can't win," the senator said.

"Senators know this and mumble about it but they don't want to talk about it publicly," the source added.

The senator said Palace officials got angry because even before the House could act on the proposed 2006 budget, the Senate was already conducting budget hearings to "embarrass" executive branch officials whose agencies were embroiled in anomalies.

"(The budget) should have been taken up by the finance committee ... but Drilon set the Senate as a committee of the whole to emasculate and embarrass Cabinet members," the senator said.

#### Checkmate?

F"So, Gloria's answer was to tell her officials not to go. And Drilon was checkmated. Drilon: said. "Nobody seems to be inis always crying foul, always terested in it with all these telling us that this is an affront troubles."

it." the source said.

The senator said that it was Arroyo and Senate President Ms Arroyo herself who decid-Franklin Drilon, a ranking ad- ed to come out with the execuministration senator told the tive order, adding that she might have not done it if Drilon had not been the Senate President.

"If Drilon were not Senate President, we would already be talking. The President is telling him 'Oh, you team up with Cory, with Erap, all designed to force me out of power. Let's see if you think you have the power," the source

#### 'Smart little girl'

The source added that Ms Arroyo) wants to humiliate Arroyo was also expecting government employees to blame the Senate if they did not get their salaries on time should the budget be delayed further.

The President has all the cards. I thought before that (Ms Arroyo) was making blunders left and right but it turns out that she's brilliant. The little girl is very smart. She has not given up on anything," the senator said.

"Those in the Palace are now... calling (Drilon) a cry baby.":

#### Despite the odds

The lawmaker noted that Ms Arroyo was able to "pull this off although she has a negative popularity rating and most of. the media are against her."

But the source claimed that Ms Arroyo was "not pushing for anyone" to take Drilon's

"And besides," the senator,

## Palace blinks on EO 464

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said the decision to allow government officials to appear at the hearing was reached in a meeting yesterday morning of Palace advisers led by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Claudio, who had held private discussions with administration senators the past three days.

The meeting was also attended by new chief presidential legal counsel Eduardo Antonio Nachura.

The Supreme Court is to hold hearings on the Senate petition questioning the constitutionality of the EO on Feb. 21.

#### Conciliatory move

Defensor said that allowing the Cabinet officials to appear at the budget hearings was part of Malacañang's "conciliatory effort" to avert a constitutional crisis.

Defensor explained Ms Arroyo earlier decided to bar Cabinet officials from appearing at the budget hearings because the senators were more interested in raising political questions rather than monetary matters.

"This is not a gag order for the Cabinet. We are just protecting the administration. We are not asking them to stop asking all their political questions. We are just asking them to keep most of the questions on the budget and policy issues," Defensor said.

#### Go slow on 'Garci'

"Probably they could have 20 percent of their questions regarding 'Hello Garci,' the fertilizer scam and whatever scam they can think of," Defensor said. "The senators we talked to understand that it is not the institution of the Senate that is being attacked. These are the individual senators that are trying to destabilize the government."

Malacañang's relations with the senators had deteriorated into a bruising verbal war in the wake of the "Hello Garci" tapes controversy involving wiretapped conversations between-

Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano supposedly dealing with rigging the 2004 elections.

Last week, officials of the Office of the Press Secretary and Department of Interior and Local Government refused to attend the Senate hearings.

Gonzalez said he talked to Ms Arroyo during her visit to Clark Field, Pampanga, on Friday and "she told me that if you feel you should attend, you just attend."

"So I'm attending the hearing on Monday," he said.

## Something unusual?

Gonzalez said, however, that he found it a "little unusual" that the Senate had convened as a committee of the whole for the budget hearings.

"It is not always that the Senate convenes as a whole to tackle the budget. Usually, the process is for them to do it by committee. The committee on finance of the Senate is what hears the budget," he said.

Downplaying concerns that the Senate might cite him in contempt should he fail to answer certain questions, Gonzalez said he was banking on his friendship

with the senators.

"I hope that that is the thing ... the mutuality of respect ... by reason of, first, separation of powers and the principle of check and balance," Gonzalez said.

#### Bert Gonzales not around

Sen. Richard Gordon said he had been told by Jake Lagonera, the Presidential Legislative Liaison Officer for the Senate, that Gonzalez would attend tomorrow's hearing.

However, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, whose agency's budget is also to be taken up tomorrow, will be absent since he is abroad, Gordon said.

Gordon said he also talked to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, who told him that the row over EO 464 would soon be resolved "positively."

"I told him 'Toting, I'll have you arrested' (for not attending the budget hearing). He laughed and said 'I think this will soon be re-

solved positively," Gordon said. Gordon said Malacañang might have realized that it was going to lose the case before the high court.

"I'm sure it's going to be a no-win situation for them. They probably realized that's the law, or friends told them that they'll lose the case," he said.

#### Solomonic decision

Gordon also discounted reports that there were plans in the Senate to declare the Philippine presidency vacant.

"I don't think there is a position taken that Gloria should resign. I see no reason right now to do that unless she herself decides to resign. That would also be a very bad precedent," Gordon said.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and another administration congressman, Davao del Sur Rep. Douglas Cagas, called on the Supreme Court to prioritize deliberations on the constitutionality of EO 464.

"A decision by the Supreme Court not to intervene in the issue would leave Senate-Palace relations in limbo and may even worsen their gap," Cagas said.

"A solomonic solution is now imperative," Nograles said. With reports from Philip C. Tubeza and Norman Bordadora



Ms Arroyo and former Election MICHELANGELO Zuce with his works he describes as a "mix of modern abstract and conceptual art." RUDY ESPERAS

## UEVASVILLE BUYERS BE AWARE!

## No judgement on land ownership

On 19 November 2005, the Inquirer ran an article entitled "Court junks claim suit vs. Cuevasville Realty," saying that the Court of Appeals upheld the right of Cuevasville Realty and Development Corporation (the "Cuevasville Realty") to develop and sell subdivision lots in Cuevasville Subdivision in Bacoor, Cavite (the "subject lots").

Said article may be misleading since it suggests that the Court of Appeals had already adjudged Cuevasville Realty as the owner of the subject lots.

On 8 May 2002, A & F Development Corporation ("A & F") filed with the Regional Trial Court of Bacoor, Cavite (Branch 19) a case for Annulment/ Cancellation of Title and Damages against Cuevasville Realty, docketed as Civil Case No. BCV 2002-54. A & F asserts that it is the real, absolute and registered owner of the subject lots.

The fact is that as of this date, the trial court has not completed the trial on the merits and there is still no judgment on the legal ownership of the lots in Cuevasville Subdivision. While Cuevasville claims that it is the owner, it holds a much later title in its name (1999). A&F's title over the subject lots is older (1968).

The 11 October 2005 Order of the Court of Appeals, which was the subject of the Inquirer article, referred only to the legal issue of what is the status quo. The trial court, on 24 September 2002, ordered A&F and Cuevasville Realty to maintain status quo while the case was pending! Since Cuevasville Realty proceeded with the construction and development of Cuevasville subdivision, A&F held that Cuevasville Realty violated the trial court's status quo order. The Court of Appeals permitted Cuevasville Realty to continue construction only because it was not deemed violative of the status quo order; and not because Cuevasville was adjudged owner.

In sum, rulings of the lower court and the Court of Appeals only pertained to the interpretation of the term "status quo" as it related to the provisional order of the lower court directing the parties to maintain the same. The issue of ownership of the Lot No. 5804 N, Fls - 1848 (Cuevasville Subdivision, Bacoor, Cavite) remains a pending issue. Cuevasville Buyers Be Aware!

A & F Development Corporation C/o Room 3, G/Floor Makati Medical Center Makati City

said in an interview on Friday. a mix of "conceptual art" and operator.

"modern abstract." He said he had never felt prouder than now of his work-which looked like it needed much improvement-compared to the electoral fraud that he had seemingly perfected as an

"When I paint, I forget the past, the troubles that I went through. Besides, I can also express my moods, my frustration, anger, dismay," he said.

## Auction

Two of Zuce's paintings were auctioned off on Feb. 7 after a symposium at the Manila Polo Club. The event was organized by a group of concerned women seeking the ouster of Ms Arroyo.

One painting-a 21" by 29" oil on canvas showing geometric figures in bright red and yellow-was sold to Lily Chan for P15,000. (See photo above.)

The other, a smaller one, was sold for P10,000 to lawyer Lorna Kapunan. (See photo above.)

As an election operator, Zuce said he was uncomfortable when he had only P3,500 in his

But since August-when he testified before the Senate about how cheating was conducted by his uncle, then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, to support Ms Arroyo's presidential candidacy—Zuce said he was now at ease even with only P100.

Regular Bible study with a support group has also helped him refocus his life away from material needs, he said.

In fact, it was during a Bible study in December that he talked about how he found peace in painting.

"They said it could help me sell the paintings," Zuce said, pointing out that since his Senate testimony, he had been jobless and had had to rely on financial help from concerned groups.

## Surprise

Zuce had a big surprise when he heard the news that his two paintings had actually been sold to the "highest bidder" after the symposium at the Manila Polo

He admitted that the money was a pittance compared to what Zuce described his paintings as he used to make as an election

A former staff officer at the Office of the Presidential Liaison Office for Political Affairs in Malacañang, Zuce told a Senate committee hearing in August that Ms Arroyo herself was present when envelopes containing P30,000 each were distributed to election officials at the Arroyo house in La Vista, Quezon City.

He also claimed to have received P500,000 for personal and professional expenses while monitoring local politics in Mindanao. He said the money was handed to him by Garcillano himself.

When the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal broke out in June, Zuce said he was also offered a monthly P20,000 allowance in return for his silence on his activities with Garcillano.

But he said he declined the offer reportedly from a Malacañang emissary, and went on to testify before the Senate in August.

## Father and son

Since then, Zuce has been staying in a safe house with his three children-aged 8, 7 and 5-and his father Florante, 57, a widower for four years now.

He said he learned to paint from his father, a self-taught artist and a member of the Mabini Artists Group in the early 1970s.

Florante Zuce quit the art scene when he returned to Mindanao, where his only child, whom he named after one of the world's greatest artists, would be born in 1975.

It was predictable that he would encourage his son to take up painting, "to drive away boredom" while cooped up in the safe

"Now I am following in my father's footsteps. He is my idol, you see," the son said with a

Said the father; "There's room for improvement. He has a long

way to go." The two are planning a fatherand-son exhibit soon, when they have the work and the venue

But Zuce said his masterpiece has yet to be expressed on can-

"I have no painting yet on election fraud," he declared seriously. Marcine insult-management and complete man a management later to be designed in

## Hundreds seek anointing at World Day of the Sick

By Tina G. Santos

HUNDREDS OF ELDERLY, SICK AND DISabled people gathered to receive "healing" as the Archdiocese of Manila and the Philippine Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (Pasmom) celebrated "World Day of the Sick" yesterday at the Espiritu Santo Parish in Tayuman, Manila.

World Day of the Sick is celebrated annually on Feb. 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, whose shrine in France has become a "temple of human suffering."

It is held on a different continent each year. With the theme "Mental Health and Human Dignity," this year's celebration was held in Adelaide, Australia.

In his message, Pope Benedict XVI reiterated his commitment to this annual event and said that he would make himself spiritually present at the World Day of the Sick, "so as to pause, reflect in harmony with those taking part, on the situation of the mentally ill in the world'and to call for the commitment of the Church communities to bear witness to the tender mercy of God towards them.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, who presided over the concelebrated Mass that was followed by the blessing and anointing of the sick participants, noted that millions of people were healed not only in body, but most importantly in the soul.

"All of us have weaknesses, nobody's perfect so all of us need healing," Rosales said, adding that the late Pope John Paul II designated the day as a "special time for prayer and sharing, of offering one's suffering for the good of the Church and reminding everyone to see in his sick brother or sister the face of Christ."

Rosales added that the purpose of the special day was to recognize those in the health care ministry, to provide an opportunity for reflection on Church teaching on health care and to pray for those who are sick.

Ernesto Rufino Jr., president of the Grand Cross of Magistral Grace, said "we like to take advantage of the miracles that happened. We'll try to recapture those and we know that Our Lady has a special love for the Philippines."

"Maybe by celebrating this particular feast of hers, we can ask her to shower us with more graces and a lot of healing. All of us also need that," he added.

As early as 1984, Pasmom has been holding the annual mass and anointing of the sick as it recognizes the need to address and commit itself to the concerns of the sick, most especially the underprivileged.

The Order of Malta served breakfast to the sick participants and health care volunteers after the Mass.



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46 Rules on leprosy

Yahweh said to Moses and Aaron, "If someone has a boil, an inflammation or a sore on his skin which could develop into leprosy, he must be brought to Aaron the priest, or to one of the priests, his descendants.

"This means that the man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest shall declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head.

"A person infected with leprosy must wear torn clothing and leave his hair uncombed; he must cover his upper lip and cry, 'Unclean, unclean.' As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live away from others: he must live outside the camp." 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Paul's example Whether you eat, or drink, or whatever you do, do it for the glory of God. Give no offense to the Jews, or to the Greeks, or to the Church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything. I do not seek my own interest,

but that of many, this is: that they be saved. Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ. Gospel:

Mark 1:40-45

Cure of a leper A leper came to Jesus and begged him, "If you so will, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." The leprosy left the man at once and he was made clean. As Jesus sent the man away, he sternly warned him, "Don't tell anyone about this, but go and show yourself to the priest and for the cleansing bring the offering ordered by Moses; in this way you will make your declaration."

However, as soon as the man went out, he began spreading the news everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter any town. But even though he stayed in the rural areas, people came to him from everywhere. Commentary

The law of Moses in regard to lepers sought to protect the people from a disease that they thought was contagious. The lepers were to avoid the people. They were outcast and had to live on the fringe of the people. Only the priest could declare the leper clean again.

Jesus wills the cure of the leper who comes to him and reaches out to touch him, disobeying the law that doubly inflicts pain on the one who was sick. He is cautioned to be quiet but he tells everyone what Jesus had done for him, in the process pushing Jesus outside the community as bearing the danger of contagion in himself now. Yet people come to him. We are commanded to imitate Christ, to touch the outcast and the sick, and to will the life of all excluded from society by old laws and traditions based on ignorance and fear. Do we imitate Christ?

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ARCHBISHOP Gaudencio Rosales, with Nellie Delgado and Lena Vera of the Philippine Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, anoints a sick baby.



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# The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

# Cartoons anger unabated

DAMASCUS-TENS OF THOUSANDS OF MUSlims around the world vented their anger Friday in a seething wave of protests over satirical images of the Prophet Mohammed, torching flags and clashing with police.

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From Tehran, Cairo, Istanbul and Nairobi to Kuala Lumpur and Islamabad, protesters took to the streets after traditional Friday prayers as politicians scrambled for answers to a crisis that has exposed cultural and religious divisions.

Police in Egypt fired rubber bullets and tear gas, while Kenyan police also used tear gas as a few rallies turned violent, but there was no repeat of the mayhem that has so far left 13 people dead worldwide.

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DOUBLE

The furious reaction follows publication last September of 12 cartoons by Denmark's Jyllands-Posten newspaper, one of which depicted him with a bomb in his turban, all since reprinted in other countries and on the Internet.

Muslims regard portrayal of the prophet as blasphemy, and the reaction has raised searching questions on where to draw the line between religious rights and free speech.

Denmark's ambassador to Syria

quit Damascus with his staff, the foreign ministry said late Friday, citing an "unacceptably low level" of official Syrian protection at the mission, which had been ransacked the previous weekend.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan wrote to world leaders calling for reconciliation "for the sake of global peace," say-ing the row had "created tensions ... between the Islamic and Christian worlds as never seen before in recent times."

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said he regretted the offense caused, but insisted nothing justified the violent backlash.

"I understand the offense the cartoons have caused, we all regret that," he told a party meeting, "but nothing, I repeat nothing, can justify the violent retribution visited on innocent people or on embassies around the world or the glorifying of acts of terrorism."

European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana will seek to repair ties strained over the furore during a five-stop Middle East trip next week, aides said.

They said he would meet leaders in Saudi Arabia and then Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian territories and Israel.

But the demonstrations continued unabated Friday.

In Tehran, a leading cleric praised Muslim "holy rage" in a Friday prayer carried live on state ra-

Act and from the state of the state of the

Branding Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen as an "idiot", Hojatoleslam Ahmad Khatami turned the focus on Washington, saying: "Denmark is a nonentity. It is America that rears such cronies as

Defying his calls for a halt on attacks on foreign embassies, demonstrators later hurled Molotov cocktails at the French Embassy and threw rocks at the Danish mission.

In Nairobi, baton-wielding riot police fired tear gas canisters to disperse 300 protesters who tried to storm a cordon outside the Danish Embassy, hurling rocks and other

Egyptian police fired rubber bullets and tear gas at 12,000 people when an after-prayers protest in Mahalla el-Kubra, 75 miles north of Cairo, turned violent, an interior ministry source said.

He said around 30 people were injured and 20 were arrested.

Thousands of people also demonstrated across Turkey, burning European flags and effigies of the Danish premier.

"The army of Mohammed is the fear of infidels! We will kill the bastards of the crusaders," a crowd

outside Istanbul's historic Beyazit mosque chanted.

In the Middle East, the radical group Islamic Jihad threatened to "burn the ground beneath the feet" of anyone who caricatured the prophet.

"Apologies from European governments will do, but if they persist in their attack on the prophet we will burn the ground beneath their feet," said Jihad leader Khader Habib during a Gaza City rally attended by thousands.



## Ariel Sharon improves after surgery

JERUSALEM—COMATOSE Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's condition improved after an emergency operation on Saturday and he was out of immediate danger, a hospital

"The operation has ended and he is out of danger," the senior

source said. The hospital was due to give a statement later.

Earlier, a hospital spokesperson said the condition of Sharon had worsened and his life was in dan-

In a CT of Sharon's stomach Saturday, doctors discovered that his digestive track had been seriously damaged, said Yael Bossem-Levy, spokesperson for the Hadassah Ein-Kerem hospital where Sharon is being held. In light of the damage, it was decided to immediately operate on Sharon, Bossem-Levy said in a statement.

"Sharon's life is in danger," Bossem-Levy told The Associated Press in a phone call after the statement was issued. His condition is now "very serious, or critical," she said.

Sharon suffered a massive stroke on Jan. 4 and has been unconscious ever since. A CT scan of his brain earlier this week showed that he was in serious but stable

Sharon on Feb. 1 had a feeding tube inserted in his stomach, an indication that his doctors were thinking in terms of long-term care for the 77-year-old Sharon.

Reuters, AP

## New deadline for reporter

KUWAIT—KIDNAPPERS HOLDING US journalist Jill Carroll say they will carry out a threat to kill her unless their demands are met by a Feb. 26 deadline, Kuwait's Al Rai TV said on Friday, citing sources close to her captors.

In response to a question from Reuters, Al Rai chair Jassem Boodai declined to specify the kidnappers' demands. In previous videos, Carroll has said her captors are demanding that all female prisoners in Iraq be freed.

"The demands are specific. We have passed them on to the authorities," Boodai said.

Al Rai TV aired a new videotape of Carroll on Thursday. She was abducted in Baghdad on Jan. 7 by militants who also killed her Iraqi interpreter.

The private television station said sources reported Carroll was

being held in a house in Baghdad along with other women.

In the video aired on Thursday by Al Rai, Carroll, 28, was shown wearing a headscarf and apparently composed and in good health—unlike a previous video in which she was distraught.

"I'm here with the mujahideen. I sent you a letter written by hand. I'm here, I'm fine. Please just do whatever they want," she said. "Give them whatever they want as quickly as possible.

There is very short time. Please move fast."

Carroll had last appeared in a video aired on the Qatar-based Al Jazeera television on Jan. 30. in which she appealed to fellow Americans to press for the release of Iraqi women held by US-led forces.

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## The WORLD

## Senate told W. House dragged feet on Katrina

WASHINGTON—THE FORMER director of the federal disaster agency testified Friday that the White House was warned earlier than it admits about the rupture of New Orleans' levees by Hurricane Katrina and the city's flooding.

Michael Brown, who was the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) when Katrina slammed the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29, 2005, told a US Senate panel investigating the government's slow response to the disaster that he had personally alerted

the White House on the night the years was coming true," he said. storm hit.

Brown said he had phoned White House deputy chief of staff Joe Hagin on Monday night, telling him of the destruction under way after a FEMA official had reported seeing breached levees during helicopter overflights of the Louisiana

"I think I told him that we were realizing our worst nightmare, that everything we had planned about, worried about, that FEMA, frankly, had worried about for about 10

"I really don't recall if the president got (on the line) ... But I never worried about whether I talked directly to the president because I knew that in speaking to Joe I was talking directly to the president," said Brown, who was ousted from office amid stiff criticism of his agency's response to Katrina, the single largest natural disaster in US

Officials of President George W. Bush's administration have insisted they were alerted to the flooding only on Tuesday.

Critics say the administration's response was too little and too late, and contributed to the loss of more than 1,300 lives in four states, including 1,100 in New Orleans and the state of Louisiana.

The White House on Friday swiftly contested Brown's testimony that the administration knew about the levees before the timeframe they had claimed.

"There were conflicting reports coming in, in the initial aftermath of the storm in regards to the levee

system," White House press secretary Scott McClellan said.

"Some were saying it was overtopped, some were saying it was breached. And, again, we knew of the flooding that was going on, that's why our top priority was focused on saving lives. The cause of the flooding was secondary to that top priority, and that's the way it should be.'

On Aug. 30, the day after Katrina hit, Bush, vacationing in Texas, said he was relieved that New Orleans had escaped the worst of the storm.

Later that day the president announced he was cutting short his vacation to return to Washington; given the extent of the damage 5 along the southeastern coast and the need to coordinate rescue oper

Brown told the Senate panel that a FEMA employee had overflown New Orleans by helicopter twice on Monday afternoon, at 5 p.m. and 611 p.m. local time, and had warned him that he had seen breached levi U ees, which prompted him to tele-13 phone the White House.

# RENE PREVAL

HAITI FRONT RUNNER

A Haitian woman walks in front of a poster of presidential candidate Rene Preval, vandalized with the words "assassin, junkie," in Port au Prince Feb. 10. Former President Preval appeared headed for an outright victory in Haiti's first election since Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted two years ago, according to rivals and initial vote counts.

## Bird flu claims 2 more people, hits Azerbaijan

BAKU—AVIAN FLU spread to a new country with Azerbaijan saying on Friday the lethal H5N1 strain had been found in wild birds floating dead on the Caspian Sea.

China and Indonesia reported two more human deaths from the virus, discovered earlier this week in Nigeria after what a senior United Nations official called a devastating spread from southern Asia over the past seven months.

Health experts are trying to warn people of the danger of a virus that is contracted through direct contact with infected birds. -But episodes in countries as far apart as Nigeria in West Africa and Iraq showed the struggle they face.

Nigerian poultry farm workers used their bare hands to throw dead chickens onto fires as village children stood by to watch in an area where H5N1 flu virus was found earlier this

In the southern Iraqi city of Amara, which is investigating a human death that may have been caused by bird flu, children played among the dead fowl.

Muhaned Radhi's uncle said his nephew, a pigeon-seller, had been suffering from flu. "In hospital he turned worse and began bleeding from his mouth and nose, and then he died."

The World Health Organization (WHO) has already confirmed 88 human deaths since the virus reemerged in late 2003 and the figure is steadily climb-

Indonesia said a woman being treated for bird flu at a specialist Jakarta hospital had died and another patient was in critical condition.

killed a 20-year-old woman farmer in the

province of Hunan, the Ministry of Health There are fears the

virus could mutate to a form where it can spread from human to human, sparking a pandemic in which millions could die.

David Nabarro, who heads the UN drive to contain the virus, said there was no evidence it had mutated to that point, but added: "It's not far away."

A senior scientist at the World Health Organization (WHO) offered a glimmer of hope, saying a limited number of migratory birds appear to be spreading a single substrain of the H5N1

In theory, this could lower opportunities for the H5N1 to mutate into an easily transmissible form, ac-

cording to Michael Perdue, an epidemiologist in WHO's global influenza program.

"It could reduce the mutation level ... You are less likely to have widespread mutation than if you had 20 strains hop-scotching across Asia." Reuters

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BRITISH COUNCIL

## Egypt unearths pharaoh tomb in Valley of Kings

arranged haphazardly, suggesting

the burials were made in haste,

Archeologists have yet to actu-

ally enter the burial chamber, hav-

ing until now only slightly opened

the ancient entrance to get an

idea of what remained inside af-

ter 3,000 years of systematic loot-

used as a burial site for royalty

and nobles to the west of present

day Luxor, some 700 km south of

come to see Egypt's phraonic trea-

sures each year, including hun-

dreds of thousands making the

long journey south from the capi-

are buried here along with rela-

Three dynasties of Sun Kings

tal to the Valley of the Kings.

Millions of foreign tourists

The Valley of the Kings was

the US team said.

LUXOR, EGYPT-EGYPT UN- tents are as yet unknown, were veiled on Friday the first Pharaonic tomb discovered in the famed Valley of the Kings since that of the boy king Tutankhamun in 1922.

"This is the first tomb discovered in the Valley of the Kings since that of Tutankhamun 84 years ago," Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities Zahi Hawas told journalists at the recently excavated site. Five mummies were found in-

side the roughly 2 m by 150 cm tomb, held inside painted wooden sarcophagae and surrounded by 20 clay pots. Hawas said the tomb, buried

under three metres (seven feet) of limestone and pebbles, had to be cleaned before any attempt was made to open the sarcophagae and identify the mummies, who, he said "were probably royalty."

If the mummies are not royal, they are certainly those of "very rich people close to the king," he said.

The find dates from the 18th dynasty of around 1500 BC to 1300 BC and was made by US archeologists barely 5 m from the tomb of the now world-famous boy king, discovered by Britain's Howard Carter in 1922.

Despite being one of Egypt's least significant kings, Tutankhamun has been surrounded by mystique because of the legend of the curse released when the tomb was opened, supposedly leading the deaths of Carter and other members of his team.

A team from Memphis University led by Otto Schaden first announced the discovery on Tuesday.

The clay pots, which bear pharaonic seals but whose contives, members of the court, and the occasional queen. The tomb The virus has also revealed this week is the 63rd in the area.

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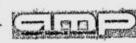
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## The coming catastrophe

O BE SURE, THERE IS AS YET NO WORLDWIDE scientific consensus to support Al Gore's 10-year global warming scenario. The world's environmental burden may indeed reach a "tipping point," for the worse, within a decade, as he told a rapt audience in Makati City last Thursday. Or it may not. There are reputable scientists on both sides of the rather arbitrary 10year divide. But none of this means we should not listen to or heed the message of the ex-vice

**EDITORIAL** president of the United States.

The message, at its core, is both solid and desperate. Contrary to the deepest beliefs of the gasguzzling cowboys running the White House, global warming is a fact. The world may have longer than 10 years in which to avert an ecological catastrophe, but that doesn't change the real bottom line: The time to take ac-

Gore's focus was on the steady increase in carbon dioxide levels, worldwide. The additional carbon dioxide weaves a kind of heavy blanket around the planet; the covering helps trap heat, thus raising temperatures around the globe (the so-called greenhouse effect). These higher temperatures have quickened the pace at which glaciers and the polar ice cap melt.

In Gore's reckoning, if trends (many of which he spotted using Nasa data) do continue, in 10 years or so, sea levels would rise by an average of five meters-that's more than 15 feet, the size of a veritable tsunami.

"Two million people in Manila will have to be relocated," he told his audience of international and local leaders. The logistics of relocation will be a nightmare in itself, as the tragedy at Ultra a week ago tells us. Of course, there is also a possibility that the flooding of Metro Manila, especially of its northern areas, will happen, like a recurring bad dream, over some time; it won't happen overnight. But that, again, will be a nightmare in itself; it is difficult to get institutions and individuals to commit to disaster prevention programs, when change happens in

If the average sea level does rise by five meters, the actual damage to Metro Manila would be unimaginable.

Gore's message, in a word, is dire. Consider that he had tailored his presentation to the needs of the Manila elite; there are many other coastal cities at or even below sea level in other parts of the country. If the average sea level does rise by the height of an ordinary house, there will be many more Filipinos needing evacuation than just the two million in Metro Manila.

Of course, the problem is not limited to the Philippines alone. Gore, in fact, is on a global tour, in an attempt to provoke the international community to take specific steps to stop the coming catastrophe. His message, in every stop, is the same.

"We should be worried about threats like terrorism, but we should also be worried about other more important threats like the destruction of the environment."

For those who follow the ebb and flow of American politics, this is Democrat-speak for Republican wrongheadedness. There is the acknowledgement of the terrorism threat, but there is also the recognition that "more important" problems exist, and that the Republicans running the American federal government have their priorities all

Need we concern ourselves with the realities of American politics? Sadly, the answer is yes. The Bush administration continues to refuse to sign the Kyoto Protocol, which many in the international community think may actually give all of us a fighting chance at lowering carbon dioxide levels in the medium term. The Bush administration's recent discovery of America's "addiction" to oil made for catchy sound bites in last month's State of the Union address, but as American opinion leaders have since found out, the rhetoric of lowering dependence on oil, etc. does not match actual Bush policy.

In sum, the United States remains Gore's main audience: If the world's biggest economy-the largest energy consumer, by far-fails to heed Gore's message, we may do our little bit, but his 10-year scenario may still come

We certainly need to prepare for the unimaginable, but together with other countries, we can also, now, put pressure on the United States.



## Broadcasting bad grammar and pronunciation

(Let us relieve ourselves of this week's tensions and relax instead on the following non-political and non-controversial discussion of some familiar errors that can be corrected without a legislative investigation.)

AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING SUPERIOR OR AS an officious fault-finder, I make the well-meaning suggestion that the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas exert some effort to correct the English grammar and pronunciation of some of our television and radio newscasters. These persons are heard by thousands of their audience every day who are likely to be misled by some of the common language errors of the broadcast media.

Some months ago, I heard a newscaster speaking of a threatened epidemic who repeatedly pronounced "malaria" as "malayria." The word is derived from the Spanish "mala aria," and in Spain they do not pronounce "aria" with a long "a" as in "baby" or "crazy" but as "ahria," as in "tanga." That telecaster probably wanted to project a fake Harvard accent and only succeeded in sounding silly.

Another word that is almost always murdered by Filipinos is "award." The second "a" is al, as in "ang kababaihan ay ginagalang ng made to sound as in "hard" or "bard," but that is a mistake. "Award" is not pronounced like "bastard." The second "a" in award should sound as an "o," as in hall, ball, fall, tall, stall, mall. "War" is "wore," not "wahr" although many people rime it with "star" and "bar." Presenters at award ceremonies should be able to distinguish between "car" and "core" and to use the "o" in "bore" in pronouncing "award."

Another practice of some newscasters is the continued use of the execrable "at this point in time" that became popular in the United States some 40 years ago. That was a pretentious phrase introduced by the Nixon boys during SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

the Watergate scandal, but it soon became as unwelcome as their disreputable president himself. It is seldom used there now except by those who are still thrilled by its artificiality.

Say "at this point" or "at this time" but never "at this point in time" unless you want to distinguish it from "at this point in space." There's no point at this time except in time unless you want to be inter-galactic.

It was Noli de Castro who, when still a newscaster, used the words "kalalakihan" and "kababaihan" when referring to specific individual men and women. He spoke of "apat na kalalakihan" or "tatlong kababaihan" when what he meant was "apat na lalaki" or "tatlong babae." The Tagalog words "kalalakihan" and "kababaihan" refer to men or women in generkalalakihang Pilipino." Three women do not make up the whole of Noli's "kababaihan" even if he is now Vice President.

And while we are on the topic of grammar and pronunciation, let me repeat my criticism of some Filipinos, not necessarily only those in the broadcast media, who talk like displaced Americans in hopes of being identified as post-graduate alumni of some lvyleague university. In Columbia, a phonics teacher offered to remove my late brother Vic's native accent but our father's son graciously declined, saying he preferred to retain his racial identification. In our family,

we are not ashamed to speak like Filipinos.

Not so with some of our countrymen who would Anglicize everything they say to falsify their Asian roots. One way to do it is to accent every word on the first syllable, as most Americans do but not out of vanity. The graduates of a prominent university indulge this duplicity to announce their academic distinction but only reveal their pomposity. CIRcumstance, CERemony and TEStimony are correct, but not BUlacan and MAlacañang. And it's spelled HERrera but pronounced ERrera or the Spaniards will get sore.

Most people pronounce it STABilize, which is correct but not preferred. The better sound is STAYbilize. But don't believe Webster when he says it should be pronounced PAYso, for we know better. It may not amount to much but it's still our Philippine PEHso. And, yes, it's birthday celebrator, not celebrant. A celebrant is one who officiates at a rite like a Mass, not one who's happy for being a year older. And you watch out for falling debris but not a popular show. "Watch out" is a warning, not an ad-

Radio and television have a strong influence on the thinking of their audience, which is why their announcers and telecasters should take special care in avoiding those common errors that their less prepared listeners are prone to adopt. Choice of the proper word and its correct pronunciation is a tool in trade of the broadcast media that can be used to help educate their impressionable listeners.

In a recent local movie, the hero, a car-forhire driver, referred to his passengers as his "clients." Only lawyers used to have clients, as doctors their patients, but now even plumbers and barbers service clients. Some pretentious broadcasters who ran and lost in the last elections must have disenchanted their clients.

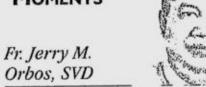
## Hopes and dreams

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A TEENAGER IN a sports car who hurriedly stole the parking space from an old man who was already carefully backing up his old Rolls Royce. Getting out of the car, the young man grinned and said: "You got to be young and quick to be able to do that, pops." The old man grinned too, and continued to back up his Rolls Royce into the occupied parking space, crunching the tiny sports car into a total wreck. "And you have to be old and rich to be able to do that, son," he said.

In today's Gospel (Mk 1, 40-45) Jesus healed a leper who begged of Him, "If you wish, you can make me clean." He expressed his deepest hope and dream-to be healed-and Jesus, moved with pity, granted his wish, immediately. In a world where hopes and dreams are crushed and trampled upon, we all must learn to cherish each other's hopes, and to be kind to each other's dreams.

The stampede at the Ultra, which left 74 people dead and scores of others hurt, is a grim reminder of how hopes and dreams could be crushed and killed, literally. The poor people who went to the Ultra and camped out there for days for the first anniversary of "Wowowee" were driven by a simple desire to participate in the show, hoping to win a few extra pesos that could help alleviate their poverty. After all the investigations, finger-pointing and witch-hunting, there is one lesson that has to be said and better done: Do not manipulate, do not kill peoples' hopes and dreams, especially those of the little ones.

Jesus was "moved with pity." That means Jesus has a heart. Soon, it will be Valentine's Day, to remind all of us that we all have a heart, and that matters of the heart still matter. I hope that our leaders who have stolen and pocketed the poor people's monMOMENTS



ey will be moved not only with pity but also by true repentance; and that they will have the heart to change their selfish ways and really give to our people what is rightfully theirs. And please, don't just give them "bread and circus" or empty promises; or use them for photo ops. For heaven's sake, give them back their hopes and dreams.

I recently experienced one cathartic moment during a group picture-taking. We were all set with our beautiful (automatic!) smiles when someone from the group shouted: "Stop!" He then proceeded to break a branch from a poor, frail and fragile plant that was "blocking the view." Ouch! Upon reflection, I realized how many of us break people's hopes and dreams just to be in the picture. The poor plant's only fault was in being there, trying to survive. We came in just for a five-minute picture-taking, and we killed it. May all of us, especially our leaders, realize that we are just passersby in this world. May we not in any way destroy the people, the values and the institutions that have been there before us and will continue to be needed long after we are

Happy Valentine's Day! Two questions: Do you still have a heart? Do matters of the heart still matter to you? It is a very fast world we are living in, a world that measures happiness in terms of material success and bounty. However, the bottom line is that true happiness is not in the pocket but in the

heart. What's the use of all your millions, your positions and your possessions if there is no peace and love in your heart? Go back to your heart, and there find peace.

Two things we must not forget as we go through life: passion and compassion. As we grow older, may we continue to have the initiative and the drive in whatever we are doing and in pursuing our hopes and dreams. May we also continue to have a heart for people, and help them also pursue their hopes and

Do not belittle one little act of kindness or compassion. It could change a person's life. My brother Manong Oscar can tell you how Fr. German Chicote, OAR, then the director of San Sebastian College, "opened the door" for him, an ex-seminarian and late enrollee, and gave him a chance to study, and excel, and proceed to graduate as the valedictorian of their high school class. Likewise, one unkind act, one burst of anger, or one show of arrogance can affect other people's lives. Let us be sensitive to other people's hopes and dreams.

"A dream is a wish your heart makes," so a song goes. My wish for you dear reader is for you to be able to make your dreams come true, and while you're at it, to make other people's dreams come true, too. Go ahead, make your dreams come true, but in doing so, may you not become a nightmare to the people around you. Happy Valentine's, everyone!

Get to know the Lord better via your cell phone. Text on DAILY GOSPEL to 2295 (Globe) and receive daily Gospel reflections.

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me make my and other people's hopes and dreams come true. Amen.

## Waiting for a miracle

LAST MONTH, THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Governance (INCITEGov), in partnership with the Ateneo School of Government, conducted a forum on the subject of customs and internal revenue programs in the country. The guest speaker was Guillermo Parayno Jr., one of only two Filipinos who have headed the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs at different times during a long and distinguished career in public service. Incidentally, since he left government work several months ago—as a member of the Hyatt 10 who broke off from the Arroyo administration last July-Willy has been traveling to such exotic destinations as Kirghizia, Kazakhstan and other Central Asian Republics as a World Bank consultant on revenue matters, sharing with developing countries in the region the fruits of his experience in Philippine revenue work.

These days, one is never too sure about what the real state of revenue collections are. One day, the BIR or Customs comes up with a report on its collection performance, proudly stating that targets have been reached, only to be corrected by the national treasurer disputing the report, or qualifying it with terms like "non-cash revenues" which ought not to be taken up, or with some other statements to this effect. One can therefore appreciate the growing public skepticism about revenue performance reports.

In his talk at the governance forum, Parayno made some disturbing observations-actually, he used the term "tragic." He noted that we have known for a long time what ails our revenue agencies. Through the years we have been grappling with these issues of how to raise collections and how to improve law enforcement. World Bank technical assistance missions have provided diagnostics and all sorts of recommendations on tax policy and administration in 1994, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002. Assessment and follow-up reports on these recommendations were under-



taken in 2004 and 2005. Without mentioning what those recommendations were, suffice it to say that they have been recurrent and reflective of

the features of modernization programs made by

past and present, will say that it does not know what is wrong and what must be done to improve efficiency and effectiveness. In fact, each administration can point to its own blueprint, corporate strategy or development plan for its program .... The thinking, analysis and proposals in these plans, while having similarities and overlaps with those provided by international experts, are in many respects a lot more comprehensive and detailed, clearly demonstrating that the BOC and the BIR and all those dealing with these agencies know what is wrong and what should be done."

Parayno continues: "Year after year, administration after administration, the same tragic obour effectiveness and efficiency and continue to lag behind many of our neighbors. Clearly the issue is no longer whether or not we know what to do. The question is whether or not we have what it takes as a country and as a people to rise above our present difficulties."

He defined the problem as a tendency to rely and expect too much on our government, on BIR and Customs in particular, to bring about the improvements needed. We tend to place all the responsibility on just one man-the Man at the Top,

the commissioners—to fix the country's primary Aegean stables.

He depicts our situation, relative to other country administrations, as not much different from being in a dragon boat race. While the competition has 50 rowers and only one barksman, our boat has one rower and 50 barksmen. (This reminds me of the revolving door policy in the Armed Forces, where there are several barksmen in a short period of time.) There is also the tendency to put all the blame for poor fiscal performance on the revenue agency workforce.

Parayno ended his talk by calling on former colleagues in the Department of Finance "not to waste any more time on problem definition and solutions identification but to focus instead on creating conditions that will unleash the power of the business community, civil society groups, the academe and other concerned sectors of our society towards the immediate implementation of solutions already identified." He called upon friends in the private sector to "take matters.into your own hands instead of waiting for a miracle to happen in government."

From 1956 to 2006: Next week, 41 retired officers make the five-hour trek up Kennon Road or the Marcos Highway, all headed for Fort Del Pilar, home of the Philippine Military Academy. It is a route they have traveled many times over since 1952 when they first stepped foot at the portals of the Academy. From an original number of 80, the class of 1956 now stands at 41-still a good percentage for any group marking its Golden Jubilee. They will be honored by the cadet corps and will endeavor to troop the long gray line, something they have done for almost each year of the last 50 years, perhaps not as ramrod-straight as in previous occasions, perhaps not as sprightly as before, but with the same spirit and pride that have marked their careers in the military service. Congratulations to the Class of 1956!

## 'Bakit Pa Kita Minahal'

SO YOU LOVE HER.

You may not know how, or why, or when, but you realize that if you want to spend the rest of your life with somebody; you want the rest of your life to start as soon as possible (preferably before the 14th of February).

But you know there's a difference between knowing the path, and walking the path.

To the thousands of hearts struggling to be free, this column tracks the path to true love. Do not REBEL be afraid. Fear is the Fear leads to anger. WITHOUT Anger leads to hate. A CLUE Hate leads to suffering. To love is to suf- Patricia fer. To avoid suffer- Evangelista



ing, one must not love; but then one suffers from not loving. Therefore, to love is to suffer, not to love is to suffer, to suffer is to suffer. To be happy is to love; to be happy then is to suffer, but suffering makes one unhappy; therefore to be unhappy one must love or love to suffer or suffer from too much happiness.

In other words, you're going to suffer either way. You might as well be in love. But I can only show you the door-you have to walk through it.

May the force be with you.

'Maging Sino Ka Man'

It's an improbable romance. You're a country boy. She's from the city. She has the world at her feet while you don't have two dimes to rub together. You are the earth to her sky, the pirated to her original-she's all that, and you're just a backstreet boy.

But is it hopeless? In the words of the immortal Cher, "As

A. "Love? Above all things I believe in love! Love is like oxygen! Love is a many splendored thing, love lifts us up where we belong, all you need is love!" (A beautiful way of, saying "I can't afford the roses, the dinner, the movie, the suit!" B. "As God is my witness, I'll never be hungry again." (If

she says yes, you will never be.) C. "I'm the king of the world!" (She might just believe

'Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita'

The man of your life is with someone else (and she hap-.... pens to have better legs, a better car, and is a size C). Don't take it lying down. Fight.

A. "She'll only break your heart, it's a fact. And even though I warn you, even though I guarantee that the girl will only hurt you terribly, you'll still pursue her." (If your boy hates being told what to do.) B. "How extravagant you are, throwing away women like,

me. Some day we may be scarce." (If your boy is an . economist, accountant or just really cheap.) C. "E.T. phone home." (If your boy is looking for a mother

'Una Kang Naging Akin'

You think everything's perfect, then one day your dream girl says, "I know we fell in love at first sight-but maybe I should have taken a second look." When she takes your hands and says, "Baby, today, we celebrate our Indepen-

dence Day," you know you're doomed. You want one more shot, one more moment to prove that: you're the man for her.

A. "After all, tomorrow is another day!" (If you know it was:

your fault and want to convince her you can change.) B. "Mama always said life was like a box of chocolates...you never know what you're going to get." (If you

know it's your fault and still don't want to change.) C. "Bond. James Bond." (If your only chance is to convince her you're really a different guy.)

'Natutulog Pa Ang Diyos'

You think he likes you, but he's never said a word. You've smiled, batted your eyelashes, sent several text messages that you're free on the 14th, and blew hard-earned cash to have roses delivered to your desk in his presence, to no avail.

A. When you love someone, you say it. You say it right then, out loud, or the moment just... passes you by. (Then wait with an expectant smile.)

B. "Do I make you horny?" (It can't hurt to plant the idea.) C. "I'll get you, my pretty, and your little dog, too!" (No explanation necessary.)

'Lumayo Ka Man sa Akin (or from Dubai to Milan)' You're forced to leave in search of a better life. She doesn't

believe your "I'll be back," and all you have are the five minutes between now and "Hasta la vista." Let her know that you're worth the wait.

A. "Do you want this jacket? I don't need it. I'm cloaked in . failure!" (Appeal to her humanity.)

B. "Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn." (So what if she' wants to break up? As far as you're concerned, she's yours.)

C. "I have crossed oceans of time to find you." (If it worked."

for Dracula, it's bound to work for you.) 'Nakagapos Na Puso'

You've watched her from afar. You would rather have one breath of her hair, one kiss from her mouth, one touch of her hand, than an eternity without her. You inhale her. You taste her. You see your unborn children in her eyes and know that your heart has at last found a home. Your life begins with her, and without her it must surely end.

Unfortunately, she doesn't know you exist.

A. "Houston, we have a problem." (That's sure to get her to look at you.)

B. "I see dead people." (That's bound to make her think you're interesting.)

C. "I'm sorry, forgive me... but have you ever let a romantic moment make you do something that you knew was stupid?" (That'll give you time to duck after you kiss her.)

And when all else fails, stick your head out the window, open your mouth wide and scream your guts out. "Don't give up on us, baby!"

E-mail the author at pat.evangelista@gmail.com

THEY SAID

Cool Spider

"I named him Spider Webb because I thought it would be a cool jock name."

-Fritz Webb, whose son Joshua David Spider, powered the Junior Archers to their first UAAP junior basketball championship

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REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

the revenue administrations of other countries. Parayno says: "No revenue administration,

servations are made-that we have not improved

Chairman, the tycoon who by a single act of kindness gives meaning to the life of the girl who will

become Sayuri, the most famous geisha of Gion.

Zhang Ziyi is Sayuri, lending the geisha both
fragility and steely resolve. Michelle Yeoh is less credible as Mameha, as she seems unable to adjust her strong personality to the fragility demanded of her role. But it is Gong Li, as the troubled, selfish and self-centered Hatsumomocompelling with her flashing dark eyes and cruel curl of the lips-who grabs much of our atten-

Indeed, the three constitute a casting coup, combining powerful acting with international appeal, and not a little chismis power, to boot, in the supposed real-life rivalry between Zhang Ziyi and Gong Li.

In China, censors have decided against allowing the movie to be shown in their theaters, concerned that the casting of Chinese women as Japanese courtesans might trigger a new wave of anti-Japanese sentiment. But if anything, the casting of Chinese actors in a Hollywood movie about an American's view of pre-modern Japan merely underscores the globalization of the film industry, and the iconic power of the West's ideal of the fragile, submissive "Oriental" woman.

TO THIS day, there are still geishas in Japan, young women who enter the profession out of a love for traditional arts and rituals. They see their role in Japanese society as continuing a venerable tradition.

It is difficult to pin down exactly what role the geishas play in Japanese society. They are not strictly prostitutes, though as the book and movie shows, their sexual favors are up for bidding and they seek long-term security by way of a wealthy danna or patron. They entertain clients, but seek to do so with clever conversation, scintillating company and the maintenance of mystique. But neither are they completely accepted by society, for as Sayuri indicates at the movie's close, despite her "happy" ending, she dare not even think of herself as The Chairman's wife. For the geishas of the world, love is a luxury they can ill afford.

## Geisha from Western eyes

IN AN EARLY ESSAY, ITALIAN JOURNALIST ORIana Fallaci writes of a visit to a teahouse where geishas entertained wealthy customers. From what I remember of the essay, Fallaci found the encounter harrowing and disgusting. She was traveling round the world in search of the defini-tive image of the "ideal woman" and had hoped the geishas would give her a glimpse of their rarefied world of refinement and artistry.

What Fallaci found instead were women whose faces were encased in white masks, shiny from sweat, the features drawn harshly against the pale canvas. She found their simpering tones annoying, and found the ritualized interaction between the geishas and their customers stultifying. Sensing Fallaci's boredom and restlessness, one of the geishas broached a delicate question: "Do you yourself like women?" Suffice it to say

that the evening did not end well. A more sympathetic depiction of the geisha is to be found in Arthur Golden's 1997 novel, "Memoirs of a Geisha," which purported to tell the "true" story of a woman named Sayuri who—at the time Golden supposedly interviewed her—lived in New York where she rendezvoused with her wealthy Japanese patrons and entertained prominent visitors from Japan. There are those who claim "Sayuri" is a composite of several women; others say she is completely fictional, her story fleshed out from research. Golden has always maintained that what he wrote was a novel, though he acknowledges developing a fascination for the subject when, in the years he lived in Japan, he met a friend whose mother had been a geisha.

FICTIONAL or not, "Memoirs of a Geisha" became a bestseller, mainly because it swept aside the curtain of secrecy which once veiled the world of the hamamachi or Geisha district with the air of intrigue and mystery.

That world comes to life in the movie version of Golden's book, a multicultural production that combines Hollywood glitz and production capacities with Asian talent and Oriental mystique. Director Rob Marshall, fresh from his "Chicago" triumph, puts his stage training to good use in recreating Sayuri's

## AT LARGE Rina Jimenez-David

world, stage managing the depiction of Japan in the years before World War II.

But in seeking to tell Sayuri's story against the backdrop of history, Marshall reduces much of the novel's charm. What makes the book so fascinating is the wealth of sumptuous details: the various layers of the kimono that the women put on; the ingredients of the white makeup they slather on their faces, which unfortunately includes lead; the training they undergo not just in dancing, samisen-playing and pouring tea, but also in the simplest gestures of flicking their wrists and displaying the mer-

est hint of flesh in raising their hems. A lot of these details are lost in the movie, as are the emotional overtones of the rivalries that roil around in the small world in which er geishas live. The movie follows the painful dance of conflict between Sayuri and her tormentor, Hatsumomo; and between Hatsumomo and Sayuri's mentor, Mameha; but it hardly communicates the intensity of feelings and their impact on the

women's future. For instance, as Mameha invites valued clients to bid for the privilege of deflowering Sayuri, they find out that Hatsumomo has been spreading word of the young geisha's supposed sexual proclivities. This wrinkle is resolved easily in the movie, but in the book, it causes a major upheaval and heartrending anguish.

AMERICAN media have made much of the producers' choice of actors: two Chinese and a Chinese-Malaysian to portray the three Japanese leads, with the rest of the cast being Japanese, headed by Ken Watanabe who portrays The

## Sociology of crowds

IN THE LAST ANALYSIS, SOME PEOPLE MUST take responsibility for what happened at Ultra. Mass poverty set the stage for the tragedy, and mass media commercialism made it happen. For the purpose of assigning liability, the legal system cannot avoid attributing motive and allocating blame. In search of better forms of solidarity, we cannot avoid pointing out its connection to poverty.

But, in another sense, the Ultra tragedy is nobody's fault in particular. If we step back a little, we may view the killer stampede as the objective result of a phenomenon that is little understood. This is the phenomenon of the crowd. Crowd behavior is unpredictable. The study of crowds alerts us to the gulf that separates conscious personal behavior from delirious collective behavior.

The deaths of 74 people and the injuries sustained by hundreds of others who came to participate in the first anniversary of the noontime program "Wowowee" were accidental. No one could have foreseen the stampede and the magnitude of the destruction it caused. If people were even minimally aware of the danger the event posed, many would not have come. The ABS-CBN network would probably not have staged the event outside company premises. The local government of Pasig would not have issued a permit, and the police would have sent a crowd control unit to monitor the lengthening lines of people.

I watched TV footage of the long queue at Ultra taken just hours before the stampede. There were many poor people, mostly adult women with haggard faces. But these were not angry faces. The crowd was not a resentful or an unruly one. It was not spoiling for a fight. Indeed it was extremely docile, compared to the massive protest crowd of the poor that gathered at the Edsa Shrine on May Day 2001. Therefore, I am not surprised that the guards at Ultra did not anticipate the violent stampede that broke out early Saturday morning. Like us, they were unprepared for the rapidity with which the crowd had formed. They could not have known the sheer irrational force a crowd PUBLIC LIVES



Randy David

could unleash once provoked.

"The crowd, suddenly there, where there was nothing before," writes Elias Canetti in his brilliant book, "Crowds and Power," "is a mysterious and universal phenomenon. A few people may have been standing together-five, ten or twelve, not more; nothing has been announced, nothing is expected. Suddenly, everywhere is black with people and more come streaming from all sides as though streets had only one direction. Most of them do not know what has happened and, if questioned, have no answer; but they hurry to be there where most other people are. There is a determination in their movement which is quite different from the expression of ordinary curiosity. It sees as though the movement of some of them transmits itself to the others. But that is not all; they have a goal which is there before they can find words for it. This goal is the blackest spot where most people are gathered."

The same stagnant crowd that levels all distinctions while it is intact can violently disintegrate at the moment of discharge: "Everyone shoves, hits and kicks in all directions." It is irrelevant to ask who started it all. "The more fiercely each man 'fights for his life,' the clearer it becomes that he is fighting against all the others who hem him in....Neither women, children nor old people are spared: they are not distinguished from men. Whilst the individual no longer feels himself as 'crowd,' he is still completely surrounded by it .... The individual breaks away and wants to escape from it because the crowd, as a whole, is endangered. But, because he is physically still stuck in it,

he must attack it. To abandon himself to it now would be his ruin, because it itself is threatened by ruin. In such a moment, a man cannot insist too strongly on his separateness. Hitting and pushing, he evokes hitting and pushing; and the more blows he inflicts and the more he receives, the more himself he feels. The boundaries of his own person become clear to him again."

This morbid account summarizes what basically happened at Ultra last Saturday. The crowd had acquired a life of its own, sweeping aside and trampling upon the bodies that stood in its path. Gertrudes Mendoza-Grantham, a 73-year-old grandmother from Antipolo who had brought some of her children and grandchildren with her, recalls what it was like: "The sound was really so loud. 1 was shouting: Help! There are dead people here. But they didn't stop. The dead were stepped on. The others pushed on, and the gate was half-open."

But what was equally remarkable about the Ultra crowd-which Canetti's analysis seems to overlook-was the presence of some individuals who, in the middle of that collective frenzy, kept their senses and performed acts of selflessness. Marissa Graboso, 35, remembers a man who scooped her 7year-old son, passed him to others, who then carried him away from the throng. The same person also saved the children of Vilma Catabang.

The stampede occurred very fast, almost like a momentary madness descending upon a community. It collected its toll, then left as swiftly as it came. People remember quickly coming back to their senses, pausing, and instinctively helping those who had fallen. But for the presence of mind of the faceless heroes in that crowd, more people would have perished, especially the young children who were wrenched from their elders.

Such is the delirium that can grip a crowd. It is a blind force that mocks all reason. We need to understand it more so that we might begin to forgive one another and ourselves.

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

# TALK of the TOWN

# 'Wowowee' tragedy

MEDIA ORGANIZATION SCORES POINTS WHEN IT REPORTS NEWS AHEAD of the others. ABS-CBN had the opportunity to report way ahead of its competitors the stampede that killed 71 people and injured hundreds at the PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City on Feb. 4, the first anniversary of its TV show

Delegation to the contract of the contract of

It was the kind of news that the network would rather not report on immediately. The network's radio station let a couple of hours pass before announcing to the world that something bad had happened at the PhilSports Arena, said Interior Undersecretary Marius Corpus, head of the task force that investigated the tragedy.

Instead of calling ambulances or the police first, the staff of "Wowowee" contacted

ABS-CBN management, costing emergency workers precious minutes that could have saved lives, according to Corpus.

The tragedy showed the extent to which the poor would go-staying for days in the streets without portalets or beds-so they could get a crack at winning prizes (P1 million in cash, house and lot, two tricyles, two taxis and one jeepney) that would help them escape poverty.

The stampede also highlighted the TV show's gimmicks aimed at attracting a huge audience and at ratcheting up its ratings. However, ABS-CBN considers the show a "public service" in which participants can win prizes that can start a livelihood and in which viewers from abroad can reach out and help fellow Filipinos.

## TV show rebuilds

#### By Leah Salterio

ESOLATION IS THE FIRST WORD one thinks of when entering the 'Wowowee" offices and studio, these scant few days after the tragic stampede at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City.

Whereas Wowowee's home, Studio 3, and the adjoining Wowowee staff room are usually buzzing with activity once lunchtime hits, the entire place is now quiet. Even mournful.

Where there were once raucous cheers and bouncy music, there is now the sound of silence-the silence of reflection and soul searching for the Wowowee's staff, crew and stars-and an entire network itself dealing with the aftermath of a tragic weekend that claimed 71 lives and injured

What fans and sympathizers of the show are concerned about is the fact, now in danger of being forgotten, that in the year since the show started, and up until the stam-pede, "Wowowee" had indubitably done a lot of good in uplifting the lives of the people it touched.

From pangkabuhayan packages that

seek to kickstart livelihoods to cash prizes that average P3 million to P4 million per month, "Wowowee" had looked out for the people in dire need who vied for slots in Wowowee's best-known segments, "Willie of Fortune" and "Pera o Bayong." [See Willie's games].

"We have always seen "Wowowee" as a show for the people, even in the conceptualization stage," says "Wowowee" produc-tion head Marilou Almaden. "It had always been meant as a show where people didn't just play for cash and prizes, but as a place where they can participate."

#### Helping hand

Almaden staunchly denies the charge that "Wowowee" promoted mendicancy. "While we had games of luck, our participants certainly weren't beggars-but they, like many of our countrymen, can always use a helping hand.

'Where it was originally a game show, Wowowee" became something that our fans had ownership of. Something like the segment where we give dollars to audience members who tell us jokes-we had fans from overseas who sent money spontaneously. We never solicited any of that. What happened is that we built this

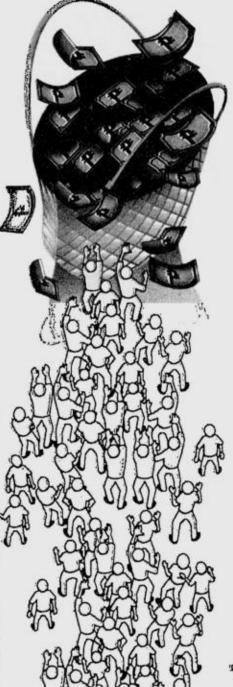
community of viewers and participants, which evolved to become public service-a place where even viewers from here and abroad can reach out and help their fellow Filipinos. And it's that spirit that needs to be remembered, I think.

#### Time to heal

With the entire network still reeling from the fallout from the past weekend, Almaden says that the men and women of "Wowowee" are focused on what most of the country wants-a chance and time to heal.

"Over the past year we've been on air, we've constantly gotten feedback from our viewers to the effect that when they see reports on our country in the media, it looks like the Philippines is always chaotic. But when they watch 'Wowowee,' they see that that isn't always the case. They have a place where people can laugh, enjoy themselves, and help each other at the same time. We're sure it will take time, but we are hopeful our audience can find themselves comfortable with the thought of being with 'Wowowee' again."

(Salterio is an ABS-CBN corporate public relations director.)



## Willie's games

#### Joke, joke, joke

Host Willie Revillame chooses members of the audience randomly and asks them to tell jokes. Upon telling a joke, corny or otherwise, the audience member gets a few hundred pesos.

#### Willie of Fortune

1. Questune - Prior to the program, organizers choose contestants who have the same occupation (for example, the contestants will all be hairdressers).

When Revillame calls for a "Questune," a pianist will play a song. The first contestant to press the signal button will be given a few seconds to guess the title of the song. If the person gets it right, he or she gets one point. If not, the other contestant will be given a chance to steal.

Whoever gets the title right will be asked to sing the song. If he or she can do that, he will get an additional point and will move on to the next level. If he or she cannot, the other contestant will be given the chance to sing and get the point. Any contestant that gets two points will advance to the next round.

2. Isang Talon, Isang Sagot - The remaining contestants stand in front of panels. Once a question is asked, a participant has to stomp on a panel to get the chance to answer. The first to score five points receives P50,000

3. Biga10 - Ten audience members are randomly pre-chosen. The winner in "Isang Talon, Isang Sagot" will be pitted against members of the "Biga 10" one by one in a question-and-answer portion. Every time the winner from the previous game is beaten by a "Biga10," the former loses P3,000. But if he or she is able to beat all 10, his or her P50,000 will be doubled.

4. Sigurado o Doblado - If the contestant is unable to beat all 10, he or she will choose from "Sigurado" and "Doblado." If he or she chooses the former, the game ends with the contestant keeping what remains of the prize money.

If he or she chooses "Doblado,"

he or she can either double the money earned in "Biga10" or go home with P50,000, depending on the combination of chips he or she has chosen.

## Pera o bayong

One hundred contestants are given a question with three possible answers. Each "answer" is assigned to a color-red, green or yellow. The contestants will then go to the color of their choice. Those who select the wrong answer will be eliminated. The process will continue until only one participant remains.

This person will choose three bayongs [baskets] from 10 bayongs with different colors. Of the 10, two contain P1 million each and one has either a motorcycle or house and lot. From the three selected bayongs, the contestant will choose one. Revillame will then start bartering the bayong for money. The participant will decide whether to stick with the money given by Revillame or risk getting whatever the bayong contains. PDI Research

## A time to grieve, a time to act

## By Danilo Araña Arao

HE STAMPEDE OUTSIDE THE PhilSports Arena on Feb. 4 could be used by ABS-CBN and other broadcast networks to seriously rethink their entertainment programs' orientation. They should provide quality entertainment in the near future, a radical departure from current noontime and early afternoon shows that viewers have grown accustomed to.

For the families of the 71 who died and around 500 who were injured in the so-called "Wowowee" tragedy, this is an opportunity to organize themselves into a group that does not only call for justice but also serves as a venue for media advocacy to demand, among others, quality entertainment.

## Development by lottery

Host Willie Revillame argues that "Wowowee" is helping the government provide a better life for the poor. While the intention may sound noble, the show ends up promoting, albeit unconsciously, "development by lottery." The show unwittingly develops a mentality that great things can happen to those who are lucky, especially if one were to analyze the mechanics of its games like "Willie of Fortune" and "Pera o Bayong."

In any case, it is not the mass media's primary responsibility to address the government's shortcomings. Instead, mass media should help in shaping public opinion. In the context of quality entertainment, this could be in the form of political satire or game shows that can make viewers reflect on their situation. Quality entertainment, after all, seeks to develop thinking audiences, not socalled couch potatoes.

Revillame stresses that his show does not exploit the people's poverty. A cursory analysis of the show's ratings and selected socioeconomic data, however, re-

veals that it mainly caters to those who wage, however, does not mean that one are impoverished and that it is very dependent on support from them.

## Poverty and ratings

In its first episode on Feb. 5, 2005, 18.8 percent of households in Metro Manila, Rizal and parts of Cavite, Laguna and Bulacan were tuned in to "Wowowee," based on AGB Nielsen Media Research's average minute rating (AMR) data. From Feb. 5 to Dec. 31 last year, an extrapolation of data from AGB Nielsen Media Research would show that Wowowee's average number of viewers per minute of airing was around 620,000 households. Twenty-six percent belonged to the C2 class and 62 percent to the D and E classes.

According to John Pateman's paper "Public Libraries and Social Class," C2 refers to skilled working class; D, semiskilled and unskilled working class; and E, residual and those at lowest levels of subsistence.

Eighty-eight percent of Wowowee's viewers, therefore, are from the working class. They are apparently attracted to the show's P1-million grand prize. In Wowowee's aborted first anniversary celebration, selected contestants also stood to win a house and lot, taxi and jeepney, as well as other cash prizes ranging from P5,000 to P50,000.

That people started lining up as early as Jan. 30 does not come as a surprise. Given the high cost of living, even P5,000 is a big help in providing for the needs of a family, especially if parents have low-paying jobs

or no jobs at all. The government's Labor Force Survey in October 2005 showed that 2.6 million Filipinos were unemployed while 21.2 million were underemployed. The Ecumenical Institute for Labor Education and Research claims that 350 Filipinos lose their jobs ev-

Having a job and earning minimum

can already provide for his or her family's needs.

The daily minimum wage for nonagricultural areas currently ranges from P180 (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao or ARMM) to P325 (National Capital Region or NCR), according to the National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC)

Based on NWPC's family living wage data in December 2005, a family of six in the NCR needs P690 to meet food and nonfood requirements in one day. It gets worse in the ARMM as a family of six there needs P872. Clearly, the minimum wage is not enough to meet a family's living requirements, even if both parents

## Responsibility to viewers

These selected socioeconomic data serve to quantify the people's unreward-ing toil and to justify Wowowee's audience profile. Unless there is a qualitative change in the poor people's daily grind, one can expect a wide following for "Wowowee" and other television shows that promise a quick ticket out of poverty. This explains why cause-oriented groups stressed that the government was responsible for the people's desperation that re-

sulted in the stampede.

The "Wowowee" tragedy, therefore, should be a time for the people, led by the victims and their families, not just to call for justice but also to engage in media advocacy. They can start by demanding quality entertainment from ABS-CBN and other broadcast networks. The latter's management should heed this much-delayed call, putting the ratings war behind and its responsibility to its viewers forward.

(Arao is chair of the Department of Journalism in the College of Mass Communication, University of the Philippines.)

## What's a ticket worth?

## Dr. Francisco Nemenzo

RDERING AN INVESTIGA-tion of the "Wowowee" tragedy is the standard response of an inutile government. Everybody who has anything to do with the tragedy is ready with excuses, assisted by smart lawyers. It is doubtful if the investigators and government prosecutors will be able to pin down responsibility for the incident, especially if the findings tend to implicate corporate and gov-ernment executives and popular show biz personalities. Like all other investigations in the past, it will produce an inconclusive report that raises more questions than determine culpability. Far from rendering justice, the courts, as in the past, will most likely penalize

the small fry and exonerate the big fish.

What makes the recent incident utterly disgusting is the cynical exploitation of the psychosocial consequences of overty to generate profits for the media lords and the big advertisers. Television host Willie Revillame says his program is meant to help people. But raising hopes of instant prosperity among those who don't have enough to eat will only ease the poverty of a few lucky ones. The total value of the proffered prizes is a small fraction of what the television company has earned in marketing profits.

The victims of "Wowowee" are not only the 71 who died and the hundreds injured but all those who lined up for three days in the hope of winning the goodies Revillame promised to dole out. The victims also include the hundreds of thou-

sands who watch his show to be entertained and deluded.

## Vulnerable

The poor, the elderly and the jobless are extremely vulnerable to such marketing gimmicks. There are many other shows that exploit the psychosocial consequences of poverty. The manufacturers of detergents, cell phone companies, banks, drug stores, and even bookshops run raffles to induce consumption. They, not only the jueteng operators, cultivate a culture of gambling.

I hope the recent tragedy will shock us into taking a hard look at the mass media, especially television. In this age of information technology, media form an integral part of the educational system. They are more powerful than the schools

because their impact is stronger and their reach is many times broader. But media are unable to realize this potential for public enlightenment and cultural enrichment if they continue to be lodged in the market system and treated as a means for profit acquisition and profit accumulation. On the contrary, our commercialized media serve as tools for miseducation and idiotization.

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

We in Laban ng Masa see our mass media today as a pillar of elite rule, an instrument for manipulating public opinion and promoting servility and consumerist values.

We recognize that a responsible media is a necessary partner in the process of system change, in the struggle to restore our sense of national pride and in combating colonial mentality. We also believe that

this freedom does not include the right to stage inane shows like "Wowowee" for the sake of profit. The commodification and exploitation of poverty is at the core of the issue.

We propose that radio and television be required to reserve prime time for educational broadcasting. Cinemas should be obliged to give preference to locally produced films using the national and regional languages. This will promote the freedom of responsible journalists to probe and attack the performance of evil not only in the government but also in the private sector.

(Nemenzo, a former president of the University of the Philippines, chairs Laban ng Masa, a coalition seeking fundamental reforms in the country.)

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# Old medicines used in medical mission, says dad

By Felipe V. Celino PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—AN INVESTIGAting team of the city council here has found that some medicines distributed during a recent medical mission by a US-based group in Capiz were expired.

The finding was in a report released Friday by the Roxas City Council's committee on health that investigated the complaint of some recipients that expired medicines were distributed during the medical mission Jan. 21-27 conducted by the Philippine Medical Society of Northern California (PMSN) headed by its president, Dr. Marlene Cordero.

Councilor Amador Anisco Jr., chair of the council's committee on health, said based on their investigation they noted the following irregularities:

 Capsules and tablets believed to be medicines for fever were placed in a plastic bag or sachets with no brand or generic name of the product.

 There was also no expiration dates or lot numbers for the medicines that the medical mission group brought with them from the

 Some tablets and capsules had 2005 expiration dates that were handwritten with black ink.

· There were medicines believed to be antibiotics that had July 2005 expiration date that were erased by black pen but

were still visible.

Anisco said they initiated the investigation after the offices here of the Bureau of Foods and Drugs (BFAD) and the Department of Health received complaints from five recipients of the expired

The complainants, he said, allegedly suffered various negative effects such as allergies, dizziness and chest pains.

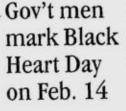
City Councilor Mark Ortiz, president of the Roxas City Rotary Club that was one of the cosponsors of the medical mission, said the inclusion of the expired medicines might just have been caused by a mix-up during ship-

He said he did not know the exact amount of medicines that were brought in but they were mostly over-the-counter medical products that arrived in two batches.

The first medicine batch arrived Jan. 21 and was inspected by the BFAD. The second batch, however, was not inspected by BFAD when it arrived Jan. 22.

Ortiz, also the president of the Silver and Gold Foundation for Family and Life (SGFFL) Inc., another co-sponsor of the medical mission, said the complaint of five to 10 persons that they ingested expired medicines should not negate the fact that over 9,000 mostly indigent residents of the city benefited from the

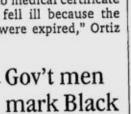
"We are doing everything to help those who suffered adverse effects because of the expired medicines. We counted 8 to 10 complaints but with no medical certificate (to show) that they fell ill because the medicines they took were expired," Ortiz



He said they would also demand that the government scrap its privatization program, the P3,000 across-the-board salary increase that government workers

have been asking and Cost of Living Allowance (Cola). Florante Ferraren,

government workers. Judy Quiros, PDI



366 or the rationalization program for govemment employees.

Cardonia said the rationalization program is just another name for "mass layoff."

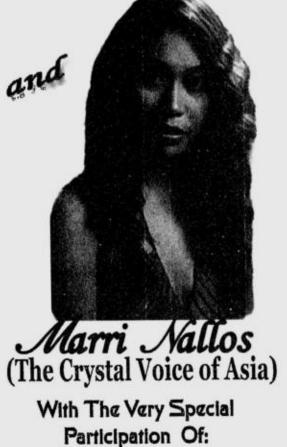
Courage chair for Southern Mindanao, said they have grown tired of the government's failure to respond to the needs of

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## **USAID** sends 2 docs to monitor bird flu

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—THE those in Europe. United States Agency for International Development (USAID) sent a two-man medical team here to help in the government's effort to prevent the entry of the deadly bird flu to the country.

Dr. Ingo Neu and Dr. Sagar Goyal were accompanied by agriculture and health officials during a courtesy call to Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. on Wednesday.

Goyal said they came to the city so they could get an idea about the preparations or precautionary measures being adopted by officials against bird flu.

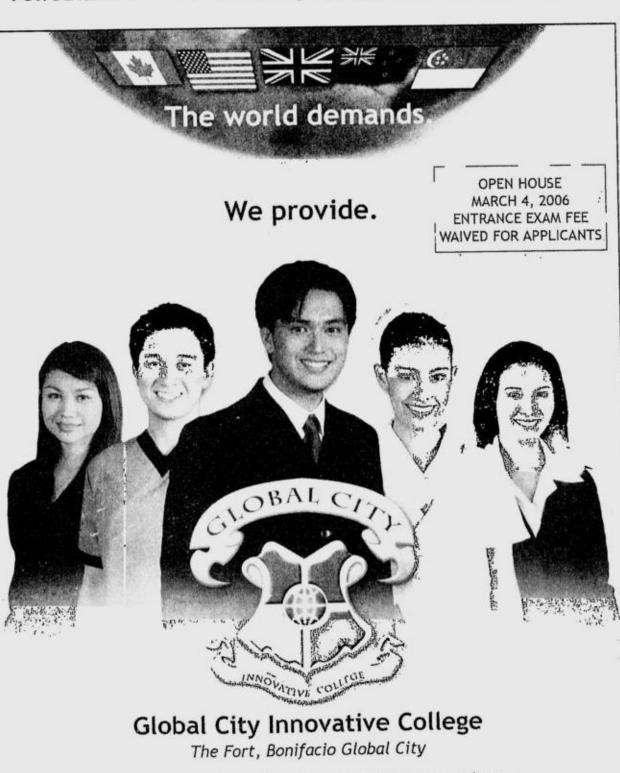
A deadly strain of the virus has already caused death in several countries, including

Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) said bird flu has become a pandemic after it was confirmed that the virus has already entered Africa.

Goyal said they wanted to help in plugging any holes, if any, in the local government's preparation against the virus.

Like other parts of the country, the city remains bird flu-free. He said they wanted to ensure

the status is maintained. Goyal said monitoring cases of bird flu, even in countries declared as bird flu-free, is part of the efforts of the United States to help prevent a pandemic. Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau



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## INQUIRERMindanac Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

and the second section of the agreement and the second

# Ex-mujahideen tells his story

By Nash B. Maulana Don Carlos, Bukidnon

the path to violence as did many other mujahideens.

But Junie Arances, 42, whose war exploits in Afghanistan could humble showy Abu Sayyaf leaders, chose to be productive, toiling in the fields with his fol-ARANCES in the field of his new lowers, instead of turning to extortion and kidnapping.

of 300 Muslims, Christians and Arances kept his story for lumad. years and it only recently did

he agree to share it with the INQUIRER: After returning from foreign lands in 1989, Arances became active in local peace-building

When Fidel V. Ramos became president in

1992 and opened peace negotiations with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), he was a close-in staffer of Nur Misuari while working on Malacañang approval of a 600hectare Muslim settlement in Don Carlos town in Bukidnon. The late dictator Ferdinand Marcos had leased the area to the defunct National Development Corp. "With past presidents having settlement

programs for Christians in Mindanao, Ramos probably realized it was about time he had, too, for the Muslims, though one not entirely exclusive to them," Arances said. For the hardened fighter who helped oust

the Russians in Afghanistan, this was the only way his people could reap the fruits of the 1996 peace agreement between the government and the MNLF. A student of sociology at the Bukidnon

State College, Arances was a devout Seventh Day Adventist. While doing research on Islam in 1984, he sought Ustadz Salamat Hashim out of thirst for Islam-related knowledge.

He was then 20 years old. The Pinule Library, run by Christian missionaries in Bukidnon, had provided him initial tools in understanding Islam. Arances eventually converted and chose the

Muslim name Omar bin Hassan. He stayed in Manila for over a year and wait-

ed for the chance to meet Hashim abroad in 1984, but his mission proved futile. He went home to finish his sociology degree. That same year, he returned to Manila.

Arances joined the moderate Tableegh Reformist group of Sunni Muslims and was granted a scholarship by the World Assembly of Muslim Youth in 1986. It allowed him to pursue a post-graduate program on Luga

(classic Arabic language of the Koran) at the state-run al-Jamiatul Imam Saud (King Saud University) in

After a year, he dropped out and was secretly recruited by other foreigners to join a group of "volunteer" Muslims to help mujahideens in Afghanistan fight the Marxist Kabul government. They were flown in a chartered Pakistan Air Lines flight to Lahore and were trained in Kashmir by "foreign mercenaries."

battle-progress for a cooperative Among their trainers and lecturers on combat and firearms handling were US Ma-

rine Sgt. Willy Smith, whose name he would not forget, and Jan Mohamad, a Pakistani. Arances was with four other Filipino Mus-

lims during clashes in Kosh, Afghanistan. They stayed there for two weeks in the winter of 1989. They were the only Filipino Moros who share real stories of actual combat in modern times in a battle fought with America against another superpower, the Soviet Union.

(He declined to identify his other Filipino companions. Some of them are dead.)

At Kosh, they were harassed by an MI-14 Soviet attack helicopter. They dodged the attack until they were able to dig foxholes for cover. They used US-made anti-aircraft (ground-fired) missiles and British Stingers.

Unable to withstand the cold winter season there, Arances fell ill and returned to Kashmir with another group of volunteers under Amer Nurudin Khan, an Indian.

In Islamabad, Arances again met Smith emerging from Misuari's quarters and they briefly greeted each other.

Arances returned to Saudi Arabia to continue his studies. But he was unable to finish Luga until he decided to return to the Philippines in 1989 and get married.

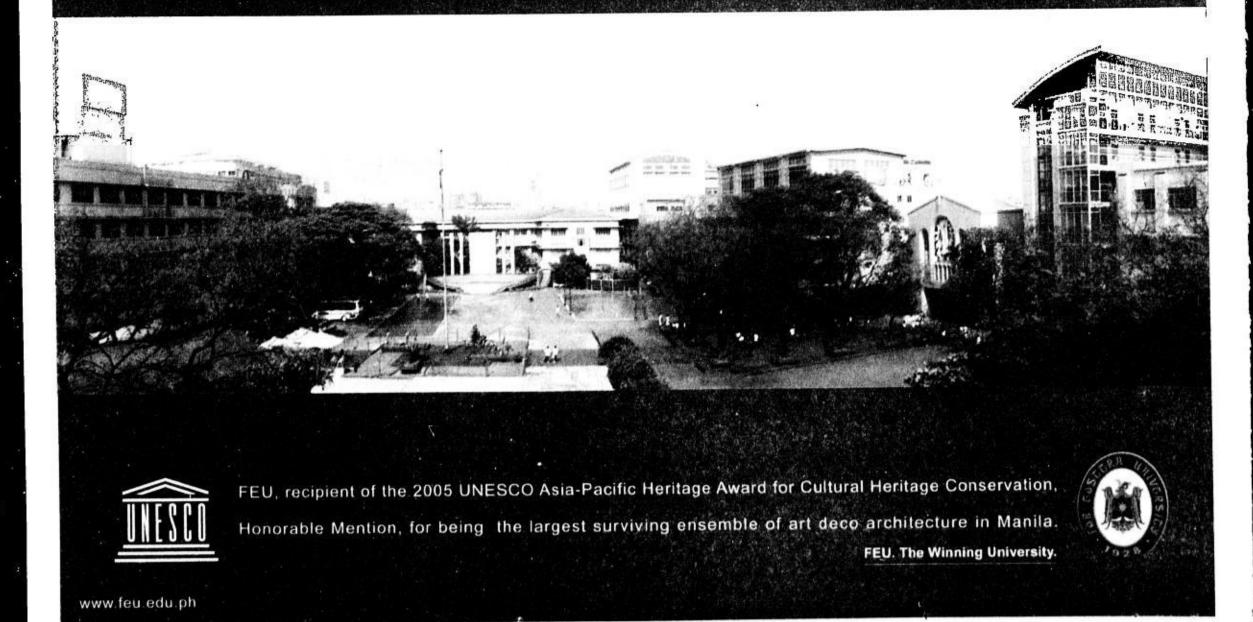
He led the formation of the Nagkahiusang Mag-uuma Multi-Purpose Farmers' Cooperative in Don Carlos, composed of Muslims, Christians and members of indigenous communities.

Today, Arances and 300 cooperative members have become some sort of a success story. They entered into a memorandum of agreement with Del Monte Pineapple Co. for the firm's new corporate operations. Fresh Fruits, a Middle East group of Arab exporters, provided capital.

It is hardwork for members of the cooperative, especially for Arances, to keep the venture profitable.

But for the former mujahideen, the fruit of labor is sweeter than the easy money that has lured many into criminality and terrorism.

A Landmark Victory



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## GMA orders P17.5B in IRA shares released to LGUs

By Romy G. Amarado PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—LOCAL GOVERNment units (LGUs) will finally get what they have been demanding for years-the release of their Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) shares withheld for four years by the national govern-

President Macapagal-Arroyo has issued an executive order mandating the release of P17.5 billion to the LGUs representing their share from the withheld IRA.

Executive Order No. 494, which was signed on Jan. 18, directs the finance, budget and local governments departments to "take necessary steps to ensure that (LGUs) get their respective shares from the P17.5 billion unprogrammed IRA in 2000 and 2001."

The order came as LGUs prepared to launch a nationwide signature campaign to amend the Constitution, a move that was seen as a means to keep

Ms Arroyo in power until 2010 amid attempts to drive her out of office.

Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz said the Department of Budget and Management was already preparing the Notice of Payment Schedule (NPS) to inform LGUs of their shares and the schedule of pay-

Arnaiz said the LGUs could either get lump sums or get the amount in installment for seven years.

But if the LGUs opt to get their shares in lump sum, he added, they must pay interest and other charges from the trustee bank designated by the government. The interest is between 27 to 28 percent.

This means LGUs will not get the entire withheld IRA because the interest will be deducted from it.

But if the LGU does not want to pay interest, Arnaiz said they can opt to get their shares in installment for seven years.

The national budget of 1999 and

2001 set aside the IRA shares for the Local Government Service Equalization Fund (LGSEF), a brainchild of jailed former President Joseph Estrada:

The Arroyo administration continued implementing the LGSEF in the reenacted budget of 2002.

The withheld IRA accumulated to P20 billion but the national government released only P2.5 billion to LGUs, leaving a balance of P17.5 billion.

The Supreme Court, however, declared as unconstitutional the move to withhold a portion of the IRA in its decision on the case filed by former Gov. Hermilando Mandanas of Batangas against former Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, former Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin and former Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr.

The court ruled that withholding the IRA violated the Constitution that provided for a just share in national taxes for LGUs.

## 3-day tourism festival launched in Subic

By Ansbert Joaquin PDI Central Luzon Desk

OLONGAPO CITY-A GRAND THREEday tourism festival started here and in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone on Friday to push a sustainable and ecologically sound tourism and vacation haven in

the Asia-Pacific region.

Dubbed the "Subik! Subik! Festival," the three-day event boasts of the best destinations and locations in the country for a wide range of adventure and ecotourism activities.

The festival also highlights the tourist attractions of Bataan, Olon-

gapo City, Subic Bay Freeport and Subic Bay Tourism Bureau (GSBTB) Zambales.

It will feature exhibits, familiarization tours in Bataan, Zambales, Olongapo City and the Subic Bay Freeport Zone, sports competitions, tourism seminars, a food display, a rave party and a grand parade and fireworks display. The activities end today (Sunday, Feb. 12).

"It is time that we be aware that there lies beautiful assets in our natural and human resources, for this brings forth appreciation, from which we shall develop an advocacy for the cause of ecotourism of the four areas," said George Lorenzana, chair of the Greater

and lead organizer of the event.

GSBTB is composed of various stakeholders from tourism council officials of the four areas to executives of major locators and business organizations.

"With strong advocacy in place, involvement is inevitable. This eventually drives us to develop and protect, be proud of and promote our destinations, our people and our culture to the world," Lorenzana said.

The events' highlight was a grand parade on Saturday that was participated in by Subic stakeholders.

## ROUNDUP

promote the shrine as a tourist destination are going on.

A caretaker removes dried leaves and other litter around the Rizal Shrine in Dapitan

City where the national hero acquired his Talisay Estate in October I 892. Efforts to

#### PIOOM tobacco destroyed

**MAINTAINING GREATNESS** 

CANDON CITY—llocos Sur, the country's top Virginia tobacco producing province, lost more than P100 million when heavy rains hit tobacco farms last week. The National Tobacco Administration said 1,652 of 5,825 hectares of tobacco farms were destroyed due to too much water from continuous rains on Jan. 25 and 26. Mayor Allen Singson approved a council resolution placing Candon in a state of calamity. The city government also set aside P2 million in financial assistance for local tobacco growers. Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Support for disabled

THE PHILIPPINE Foundation for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled Inc. is preparing for the 2005 Apolinario Mabini Awards which draws attention to disabled persons, groups and institutions that have overcome physical and mental adversity to excel in a particular field of endeavor, according to a news release. Special education teachers and caregivers have also been trained to take better care of their wards, special children. Through the support of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., five training programs were held in Tagaytay City, Puerto Princesa City, Talavera, Nueva Ecija; Tuguegarao City and Tacloban City.

Psychology convention

THE SAMAHANG Mag-aaral ng Sikolohiyang Pilipino (Samasikofil) of Ateneo de Davao will host the 2006 Visayas-Mindanao Psychology Convention on Feb 17-19 with the theme "Beyond Family Borders Loving and Healing Our Broken Country." Topics include solo parenthood, family spirituality and empowerment and analysis of family violence, according to a news release. The group hopes to bring together several schools to an event that would raise consciousness and equip them to become women and men for others, said Mariel Andrea Gardiola, program head. For details, text or call 0920-8098406.

Kidnap leaders nabbed

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Members of the Regional Special Operations Group arrested two suspected leaders of the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang in two separate operations. Chief Supt. Danilo, Mangila Central Mindanao police chief, said Hamid Sandigan, alias Jamid Sandigan, was arrested In Sitio Plantasyon, Barangay Alip in Datu Paglas, Maguindanao on Jan. 31, while George Mamantil was arrested in Barangay New Cebu, Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat on Feb. 2. Sandigan is a suspect in the 1997 kidnapping of trader Jesusa Ang of M'lang town, North Cotabato. Mamantil is a suspect in the 1997 kidnapping of Philippine National Oil Co. employees in Barangay Buteren, Datu Odin Sinsuat in Maguindanao, and also in the 2004 kidnapping of trader Zolla Cansl in Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat.

Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Bayan member shot

VILLASIS, Pangasinan-Armed men shot and wounded an officer of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) while he was alighting from his jeep on Feb. 6. Mariano Sepnio, 45, Bayan vice chair in Pangasinan, was hit in the back and was in critical condition in a hospital. Witnesses said Sepnio was on his way to visit a friend in the town when motorcycle-riding men shot him. Police said Sepnio had been receiving death threats. Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



FORMER congressman Mark Jimenez walks with Benedictine nuns from the monastery of the Mary Mother of Christ in Bukidnon where the businessman distributed cash to poor families. Jimenez was accompanied by members of the group Nagkakaisa sa Diyos, Nagkakaisang Pilipino which he founded. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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The Department of Education Central Office through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for :

PACKAGE NO.	DIVISION	SCHOOL	PROJECT	Approved Budget for the Contract
1	Rizal	Rosario Ocampo Elementary School San Jose Elementary School	Construction of Two (2) Storey Eight (8) Classroom School Building Construction of Two (2) Storey Six (6) Classroom School Building	10,458.180.00
2	Rizal	Lipat-Lipat Elementary School Mambog Elementary School	Construction of Two (2) Storey Eight (8) Classroom School Building Construction of Two (2) Storey Eight (8) Classroom School Building	11,514,000.00
3	Fizai	Tanay National High School Gen Licerio Geronimo Natl. High School	Construction of Two (2) Storey Eight (8) Classroom School Building Construction of Three (3) Storey Six (6) Classroom School Building	10,079,718.85
4	Antipolo City	Sapinit Elementary School Inuman Elementary School	Construction of Two (2) Storey Six (5) Classroom School Building Construction of Two (2) Storey Six (6) Classroom School Building	8,685,000.00
5	Quezon City	Placido del Mundo Elementary School San Gabriel Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building	13,901,790.00
6	Quezon City	Manuel L. Quezon Elementary School Ismael Malhay Sr. High School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building	12,545,000.00
7	Quezon City	Novaliches High School San Francisco High School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building	12,545,164.05
8	Quezon City	Carlos Albert High School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building	6,755,000.00
9	Caloocan City	Gabriela Silang Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Fifteen (15) Classroom School Building	13,027.500 00
10	Caloocan City	Deparo Elementary School Camarin Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building Phase II-Completion of Three (3) Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building	8,685,000.00
11	Marikina City	Sto. Niño Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (15) Classroom School Building	6,948,000 00
12	Paranague City	Parañaque Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building	6,755,000.00
13	Las Piñas City	Pampiona Central Elementary School	Partial Construction of Three Storey Fifteen (15) Classroom School Building	10,900,900.55
14	Malabon Navolas	Tinajeros National High School Potrero High School	Partial Construction of Three (3) Storey Fifteen (15) Classroom School Building Partial Construction of Three (3) Storey Nine (9) Classroom School Building	13,052,097.85
15	Muntiniupa City	Muntiniupa Elementary School	Phase II - Completion of construction of 3 Storey School Building	6,595,977 65

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use nondiscretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post qualification

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

Activities	Schedule	Location	
Receipt from Prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility and Issuance of Eligibility Forms	February 13, 2006 - February 20, 2006	St. St. Makin Ble	
Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	February 14, 2006 - February 24, 2006	BAC Secretariat, 5th Fir., Mabini Bidg. DepED Complex, Meralco Ave	
Eligibility Screening	February 27, 2006 - March 2, 2006	Pasig City	
Natice of Results of Eligibility Check	March 6, 2006		
ssuance of Bidding Documents	March 6 to April 5, 2006		
Pre-Bid Conference	March 20, 2006, 10:00 A.M.	Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED	
Receipt and Opening of Bids (Package 1 to 8)	April 5, 2006, 10:00 A.M.	Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City	
nevert and Opening of Bids (Package 9 to 15)	April 6, 2006, 10:00 A.M.		

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders the Eligibility Forms at BAC Secretariat Office, 5th Floor Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI). Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC Secretarial at the

said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address. The BAC will issue electronic copy (CD) of Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 3,500.00 per package to the DepED Cashier. Plans and Bill of Quantities Forms will be issued in hard copies.

Bids in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract per Package shall be rejected. Likewise, late bids shall be rejected. The Department of Education assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

> (Sgd.) ATTY. MACUR D. MAROHOMBSAR **BAC Vice Chairperson**

(POI - February 12 & 19, 2006)

## Pasig drug bust also netted baby, pregnant girl

From page AI

rested had been turned over to the custody of the DSWD Pasig City since Friday night.

Most were boys, with the average age running between 10 to 12 years old. The eldest was 17 and the youngest was the 4-month old infant.

There were also two pregnant girls between the ages of 16 and 17 and they were under the DSWD's custody, according to

"They were not customers. The children were being used as runners for the different stalls. They were exposed to the buying and selling of shabu. What happens when they grow up?" Ele said.

He would not say if the youngsters had tested positive for drugs.

He would only say that they took urine specimens from the boys aged 12 to 17 for drug tests.

Minors arrested for criminal offenses are tried by a juvenile court and usually given suspended sentences.

#### Teenage sex workers

Ele suspects the pregnant girls they arrested were made to work as sex workers to shabu customers, pointing to posters of nearly naked women plastered around the compound.

He said their office had given the social workers P3,000 for the dinner of the minors who had been turned over to the DSWD. But the money would not last

"Please ask the local government officials to help. They have not eaten," Ele told the INQUIRER.

The adults arrested, meanwhile, are staying in cramped facilities at the PNP Custodial Center in Camp Crame.

There are siblings among them, said Ele. Various charges

are being prepared against them.

"Some were apprehended inside drug dens. Some were identified as pushers. Some were in possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia. There were a few



A FLOWER FESTIVAL opened last week in Baguio City to a display of fireworks at Burnham Park that enveloped the cityscape with a mood of celebration.

who were drug traffickers and pushers and we have evidence for that," he said.

Ele had described their discovery of what seemed to be a shabu flea market an "unprecedented" operation, which he said had been going on for

He believed the community, which called the place "Sitio Ma-payapa (Peaceful)" either tolerated the drug activity or was involved in maintaining it.

#### Heads roll

President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the police to stamp out drug dens in Metro Manila, "whether they are in the slums or affluent neighborhoods," deal sternly with politicians and law enforcers involved in the trade.

"We must wield the consolidated power of all concerned agencies, the schools, the private sector and the church, to bear upon

this challenge," Ms Arroyo said. PNP Director General Arturo

Lomibao described the drug bust as "incomprehensible" and immediately ordered the relief of precinct commander Senior Insp. Salvador de la Cruz and seven of

Also relieved were six personnel of the Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) of the Pasig City police station and six DEU personnel of the Eastern Police District (EPD). Other policemen will undergo drug testing, investigation and retraining.

"We will hit hard on criminals and protectors alike. The policemen in Pasig will be investigated and those found inept, incompetent and corrupt will be charged administratively, and dismissed immediately if found guilty," Lomibao said yesterday in a state-

PNP National Capital Region Command Director Vidal Querol ordered Pasig police chief Senior Supt. Raul Medina to explain how the brazen drug trade could have gone on under their noses.



SHABU FLEA MARKET: Fifty-nine minors were among the more than 300 rounded up in Pasig. JOAN BONDOC

Chief Supt. Oscar Valenzuela to

give a written explanation. "By Monday everything should be on my table. Then I will pro-

Querol also asked EPD head ceed," Querol said, adding that whether or not Medina would rehe will hand down his final decision "sometime next week."

> Querol told the INQUIRER yesterday that his decision on zuela.

main as Pasig City police chief will be up to the results of the investigation conducted by Valen-With Jocelyn Uy



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From page AI

gineering earned at the University of Illinois. Siringan, a professor on marine geology, holds a Ph D from Rice University in Houston,

Exaggerated

In his first visit to the country, Gore delivered a lecture on global warming at a forum hosted last Thursday by Ambassador Alfonso

The standing-room-only affair drew ranking politicians, business leaders and members of the diplomatic corps.

The former Vice President of the Clinton administration warned that up to two million Metro Manila residents may have to be evacuated from flooded communities as melting glaciers and the polar icecap raise sea levels worldwide.

Warning that the world will reach the "tipping point" toward an ecological catastrophe within the next 10 years, he urged international and local leaders to focus their efforts toward halting the phenomenon of global warming.

## Doomsday scenarios

His computer-aided presentation earned a standing ovation.

"The problem with these exaggerated and very general pronouncements about environmental doomsday scenarios is that they distract us from the real local problems which we can really do something about," Arcilla said.

He conceded that global warming was "a serious threat to humanity, (but) it is certainly not in the terms that Gore presents."

As to Manila Bay overflowing, he noted that his peers at UP, like Siringan and Dr. Kelvin Rodolfo, along with their students, had conducted their own studies of the water level's rise.

## Real story

"While it is true that global warming could contribute to the rise, this is only in the millimeters, but the centimeters' rise could be attributed more to heavy groundwater extraction which results in subsidence, which makes it appear that the sea is invading land," he explained.

"I am not saying that we should stop helping control greenhouse gas emissions, but very, very few really know the real story about flooding in Metro Manila," he said.

"We could cry all day about greenhouse gases but if we don't regulate carefully our use of groundwater, we could be flooding faster than whatever could come from global warming."



"DON'T just listen to Gore, listen to our own scientists," say critics of celebrity treatment for the former US vice president. ROGER MARGALLO.

Reached by phone, Siringan observed: "We're falling over each other when it comes to foreign scientists. We don't listen to our very own. They have done more work but they are ignored."

He said this bias was evident in the hiring of expensive "foreign consultants" for projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

For the Camanava Flood Control Project, for example, the DPWH has tapped Japanese consultants who "earn in a month what Fil-. ipino scientists cannot earn in a year," said: Siringan, who gets around P30,000 a month as a UP professor.

He said he shared Arcilla's "sentiments" about the Gore visit.

## Listening to your own

"I am glad that former Vice President Al-Gore visited Manila, but I am disturbed that we believe everything he says without filtering it through some scientific analysis," Arcilla said in his statement.

It's about time that the public-and the government-pay heed to "our own scientists, many of whom have sacrificed having a lucrative career abroad to study our own problems and propose solutions," he said.

"We do not have many scientists, but we do have a few good ones," Arcilla said, noting that as far as "credentials" were concerned, Gore "really does not have an advanced science degree, even if he is a good student of the environment."

"Let us listen to them (local scientists) also before we fall hook, line and sinker for foreigners," he said.



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# Aussies play big sister to streetkids

#### By Margaux C. Ortiz

Text us your feedback:

A GROUP OF STREET CHILDREN WAS practicing for a theater presentation when seven foreign young women walked into the Bahay Tuluyan (BT) shelter in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Suddenly, the kids' faces broke into wide smiles. Their eyes lit up as they welcomed the newcomers into the room, even cheering them on as the women posed for the Inquirer photographer.

"Ate ko 'yan (That's my older sister)," one of the children, a girl with black hair and black eyes, said proudly, pointing at one of the foreigners-a green-eyed blonde.

The group of women were Australian volunteers who had decided to spend their summer vacation in the Philippines working with BT, a nongovernment organization formed in 1989 to help Filipino children in need of special protection.

The volunteers, who were scheduled to go back to their country a few days after the interview, were just as enthusiastic

about their "little brothers and sisters." "We just want to pack them all in our suitcases and take them back to Australia



ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY: The streetkids at Bahay Tuluyan with their Australian 'ates.'

with us," Nikki Zingerle, a 22-year-old Bachelor of Arts student at La Trobe University, said, laughing.

"I know this may sound clichéd, but we love them all and it's really hard to decide who among them is our favorite," she Georgie Garvan, Janelle Phillips, Sarah

When the young volunteers arrived in the country last Dec. 5, they did not know what to expect from the program.

Zingerle, Mary Blake, Melina Stewart,

JUDGE GUILLEN:

of the courtroom."

judgmental person out

"I'm the least

Hunt and Cassie Moran, all university students with ages ranging from 18 to 23, had applied for admission to the Australian Volunteers International (AVI) program for different reasons: One wanted to experience living in a third world country, some wanted to work in the development field, while the others simply wanted to volunteer.

The seven, however, have one thing in common: An interest in children.

"We had a basic outline of what we would be doing, but we learned a lot more during the project itself," Hunt, 21, a Bachelor of Arts student at the University of Melbourne, said.

A few days after their arrival in Manila, they were asked to live for a few days with an urban poor family, in order to learn about Filipino culture.

"We were amazed at how some of the families of five or six could live in spaces the length of our own bodies," Garvan, a social work student at the University of New South Wales, said.

"However, we were able to adjust to their lifestyle quickly because the families were so welcoming and did everything to make us feel comfortable," she recalled

with a smile.

After bonding with their foster families, the volunteers began working with the streetchildren of BT.

BT development manager and AVI project coordinator Catherine Scerri said that they have about 80 children in their shelters in Sta. Mesa; Victoria, Laguna; and San Antonio, Quezon.

"Because of these kids, many of us have changed direction in our lives," Hunt said, adding that most of the volunteers now want to work with children and development organizations.

'We realized through our experiences with the Filipino streetchildren that there is a common thread of humanity that runs through all of us," Hunt said.

"We may be Australian, we may not speak Tagalog, but we can all make that connection-whether it be a smile, or a hug, or just being able to share a game with the children," she added.

True enough, the streetchildren's unabashed display of happiness and adoration toward their Australian "ates" only showed that the young volunteers had succeeded in touching the lives of the Filipino kids they love and care for.

## Makati judge has soft spot for children

#### By Tarra V. Quismundo

SHE HAS BECOME KNOWN AS THE FEARless judge who delivered swift justice to the victims in last year's Valentine's Day bombing

One of those wounded in the bombing incident was a child and family court Judge Marissa Macaraig Guillen, of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 60, has a soft spot

"I am a mother, on top of it all. That's the reason why I enjoy being in the family court, because it puts me in touch with children. And I think that gives me the most satisfaction: Being able to really protect children's rights," said the 48-year-old judge who is a mother to three teenagers.

In her five years of presiding over a family court, Guillen has handled numerous cases involving minors as either complainants or (she was the recipient of the 2005 Chief Jus-

Last year, she faced her biggest case: The trial of three terror suspects tagged in the Feb. 14, 2005 bus bombing, an attack that killed

four persons and injured at least 60 others. But the University of the Philippines law graduate lived up to challenge, handing down a decision on Oct. 28 last year, just seven months after the filing of the case, one of

shortest trials yet of a high-profile case. In what may go down in Philippine history as a landmark case in the fight against international terrorism, Guillen meted out the death penalty to confessed Abu Sayyaf members Gamal Baharan and Angelo Trinidad, and Indon explosives expert Rohmat Abdurrohim, an alleged member of the regional ter-



rorist network Jemaah Islamiyah.

Given her dedication to her profession,

tice Jose Abad Santos Award for Judicial Excellence), her confession that she never wanted to be a lawyer comes as a surprise. As a child, she said she was interested in the arts, like most of her siblings who are

now in media and the publishing industry. Guillen's late father, Catalino Macaraig Jr., however, focused on her exceptional abstract

reasoning and verbal skills and groomed her to become a lawyer, she told the Inquirer. Macaraig had served as deputy justice minister under the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos and as executive secretary to President Corazon Aquino after Edsa I.

Given her exemplary performance on the bench, Guillen's case is proof that fathers

## **National Steel Corporation** BIDDING

	GENERAL DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
Α.	Retired Assets at Export Bodega	255 Line Items
B.	Machineries at Machine Shop	6 Units
C.	Computer Servers	1 Lot
D.	Survey Instruments	1 Lot
E	Various Items	11 Line Items
F.	Clinic Instruments, Equipment & Fixtures	1 Lot

- 1. Items are located and can be inspected at the former National Steel Corporation lligan Plant, Suarez, lligan City c/o Mr. Pat Capuno Tel. No. (063) 492-2881 to 82.
- 2. Interested parties may inquire at the Office of the Liquidator at Tel. No. 752-4495 to 98 c/o Mr. Jess Garcia, Mr. Larry de Lara, or Ms. Ara Agliam. Detailed list of items for bidding may be secured from this office.
- Deadline for submission of offer is on March 3, 2006 at 2PM.
- The NSC Liquidator reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to accept such proposals as may be considered most advantageous to its interest.

## METRO BRIEFS

#### Holiday in Parañague TOMORROW is a holi-

day in Parañaque City. President Macapagal-Arroyo, through Proclamation 991, has declared Monday a special nonworking holiday in the city in celebration of its eighth cityhood anniversary. Nelson Lacambra, spokesperson of Mayor Florencio Bernabe, said Masses will be celebrated in the city's 16 barangays.

Jocelyn R. Uy

## Love musical

A DIFFERENT kind of musical will unfold on Feb. 15 at the UP Theater in the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City. The post-Valentine's event, a musical on love and social justice, will be staged by the AkSa Artists' Circle of the progressive group Aksyon Sambayanan, Proceeds will be used to fund projects in poor communities this year. Special guests include actors Jestoni Alarcon, Dan Fernandez, Monsour del Rosario, lan Veneracion and Daniel Fernando.



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NOTE: Bidders should bid for one (1) lot only. Contract Duration: Two (2) years

Unity contractors duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in bidding. Unregistered contractors must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procureme Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita Mta., Tol. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the Bld Docume available for issuance from February 2, 2006 to February 27, 2006 at the BAC Secretanat Unit, PPD-Corporate upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Twenty One Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Two Pesos & 43/100 (Php 21,452.43) for Lot 1, Fifteen Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Four Pesos & 31/100 (Php 15,224.31) for Lot 2 and Fourteen Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Eight Pesos & 30/100 (Php 14,878,30). In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretary handling the project.

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows

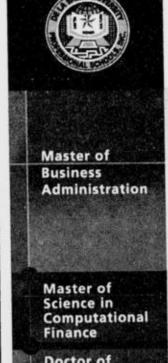
Activities	Schedule	
Pre-Bid Conference	February 15, 2006 (3pm)	
Submission of Bids	February 28, 2006 (2pm)	
Opening of Bids	February 28, 2006 (2pm onwards)	,

PAGCOR reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected

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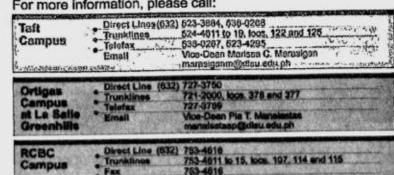
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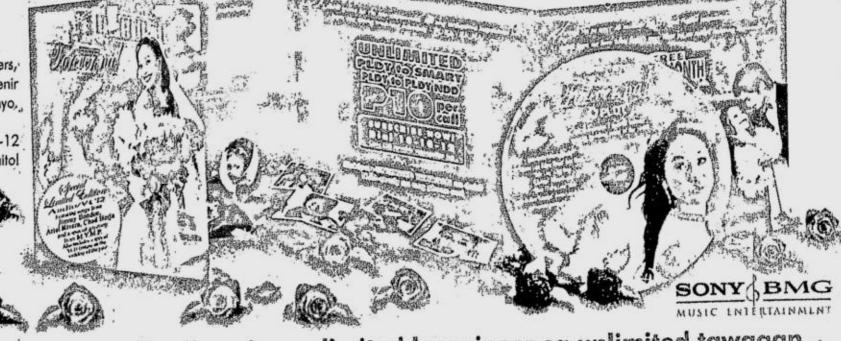
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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres



RAIN OR SHINE REMAINS CONFIDENT WHEN the Elasto Painters shoot for the PBL Heroes Cup title anew against the Magnolia Wizards today at

"The advantage is still ours. We're still twice to beat," said coach Caloy Garcia after the Painters failed to sweep the finals last Thursday.

the San Andres Gym.

The Wizards will try to level the series in Game 4 of the best-of-five contest at 3:30 p.m.

"We'll do our best to survive everyday," said Magnolia coach Koy Banal. "It's difficult, but it's possible (to win the title). I want the team to lighten up and not be burdened by the thought of winning it."

The Wizards managed to stay alive in Game 3 with a convincing 80-70 win behind Arwind Santos .

GAME TODAY (San Andres Gym) 3:30 p.m.-Magnolia vs Rain or Shine (Game 4 Finals)

and Kim Valenzuela. But Banal believes a few more adjustments are in order for the Wizards to forge a rubber match.

"We have to make good decisions in our shot selection," said Banal. "Rain or Shine has a full house, anyone can step up offensively. Their players are al-

so using their experience." Garcia, meanwhile, expects his wards to regain

"They played minus the fire and passion they showed in the two games of the series," he noted.

Among the disappointments was Junjun Cabatu, who produced only nine points in Game 3 after averaging a sensational 20.5 points in the finals.

Most Valuable Player Jojo Tangkay also lost his offensive touch, firing only five points.

It was the Wizards who got a stronger team performance in Game 3, with Jason Misolas, Mark Isip and Gerard Jones providing a huge lift.

The Wizards bench outscored the Painters, 48-32, as they finished with a better field goal clip

After a 70-68 overtime triumph in Game 1, the Painters moved within a win from claiming their second straight title and seventh overall with a 75-73 victory in Game 2. The Wizards, however, avert-

# Bulls eye 3-0 edge

THE PUREFOODS CHUNKEE GIANTS ARE NO strangers to losing two games in a row during

Purefoods, 98-84

And so the Giants will try to duplicate against Red Bull a feat they pulled off four seasons ago starting in Game 3 of the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference Finals today at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Gregorio and the Giants were also in a 0-2 pit during their best-of-seven championship series with the Alaska Aces before Purefoods strung up four victories to capture the 2002 Governors Cup

can be done," said Gregorio, who coach again. I paid my dues in the first two games. We'll make the necessary adjustments this time," he

added. But the Giants are in an entirely

The 2002 Alaska squad which Purefoods stunned was laden with young Turks and rookies after the departure of Johnny Abarrientos, Bong Hawkins, Kenneth Duremdes, Jojo Lastimosa and Poch Juinio.

Now, the Giants are up against a Navarro

Red Bull squad with **GAME TODAY** championship experi-(Cuneta Astrodome) ence and armed with 5:45 p.m.-Purefoods a never-say-die mentality unparalleled in vs Red Bull Barako Game 1-Red Bull d. the league. Purefoods, 107-102 OT

"It's what you call 'Red Bull mentality' Game 2-Red Bull d. and it was molded through time," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao, who still has Lordy Tugade,

Junthy Valenzuela, Mick Pennisi and Jimwell Torion after winning two championships in the 2001 and 2002 Commissioner's Cup.

But Guiao remains wary of the

"It's not the 2-0 or even the 3-0. Once they find the right adjustment, they could get things going and even beat us," said Guiao. "I'm sure they'll try something else in our next game.'

Rico Villanueva, a top contender for the best player of the conference award and Finals MVP, Tugade, Valenzuela and rookie Larry Fonacier have been combining well with James Penny.

On the other hand, the Giants have been Marquin Chandler-dependent, particularly at crunchtime when Kerby Raymundo, Roger Yap and James Yap should be giving their import an extra hand. June

# vs Giants

a championship series.

## "We can rewrite history again, it won his first PBA title on his rookie year in 2002. "I feel like a rookie

different situation going into the third game of the best-of-seven series at 5:45 p.m. at the Cuneta As-

## Pumaren named new TNT coach

By June Navarro

AFTER PAINSTAKingly evaluating their options, the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals have finally decided to tap Derrick Pumaren as new head coach. An Inquirer source

said Puma-ren was PUMAREN elevated from assistant coach-consultant to chief talks surrounding my being

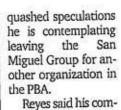
mentor following Joel Banal's decision to step down. Banal had steered the Phone

Pals to their first championship in the 2003 All-Filipino Cup and led them to a runner-up finish twice. The Talk 'N Text management

is expected to make the formal announcement about Pumaren's takeover before today's Game 3 of the Red Bull-Purefoods PBA Piesta Conference Finals series at the Cuneta Astrodome.

A Talk 'N Text insider said Pumaren, who called the shots for the FedEx Express from 2002-2003, was offered a two-year pact with corresponding increases and bonuses on his monthly salary.

Besides Pumaren, multi-titled coach Chot Reyes was also considered for the Talk 'N Text coaching portfolio. Reyes, however,



mitment to the na-

tional basketball train-

ing pool remains his top priority. "Amid all the considered for another team's coaching job, I would like to affirm my commitment to the San Miguel organization,"

Reyes said. Reyes took a leave of absence from the Coca-Cola Tigers last year to concentrate on his appointment as RP coach by the PBA Board of Governors and commissioner Noli Eala.

When Banal stepped down as head coach of Talk 'N Text last week, Reyes' name came out in the papers as among those being considered by the Phone Pals management for the job.

"The Chair (Eduardo Cojuangco Jr.) and Mr. Ramon Ang (SMC president) have treated me very well and have given me no reason to go anywhere," said Reyes in a short statement.



## SundaySPORTS West Visayas retains Prisaa championship

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

PANGASINAN-LINGAYEN, Western Visavas captured the women's volleyball title and swept

taekwondo Saturday to cap its successful defense of the overall championship in the Private Schools Ath-Association letic National (Prisaa)

S. Tagalog Games here. Nerissa Bautista of NCR-North the University of San Agustin in Iloilo was NCR-South named Most Valuable C. Luzon Player and best attacker C. Mindanao 1 4 as West Visayas beat W. Mindanao 1 2 16 Southern Mindanao in their volleyball show-N. Mindanao 0 0 4 down while Miguel Arsenio and Catherine Sa-ARMM monte of Bacolod City emerged men's and

women's taekwondo champions, re-West Visayas finished with 71

gold, 75 silver and 61 bronze medals while Southern Mindanao wound up with a gold-silver-bronze output of 61-52-50.

Central Visayas landed third with 47 golds, 30 silvers and 56 bronzes

while Southern Tagalog was fourth with 33-40-27. Host Ilocos was fifth with 26-29-20.

The WV delegation earlier bagged the crown in women's badminton, women's athletics, women's swim-

and sepak ming takraw.

Fr. Emil Jaruda, delegation head of Westem Visayas, said the region was aiming for a grand slam next year when it hosts the Prisaa national games. He said the region's backto-back win was a "pleasant surprise" because it was only last year when it rejoined the Prisaa after it was revived in 2001.

Southern Mindanao, whose players mostly came from the University of Mindanao, drubbed Bicol in women's softball

(12-0) and men's baseball (8-2). The region also shone in athletics

and swimming events. Cecil Rule of the Southern Mindanao's softball team was named best pitcher while Dionisia Amaguen

was best shortstop. Both are from the

University of Mindanao.



WESTERN Visayas' Danelyn Liquigan spikes the ball during their final game against Southern Mindanao. Western Visayas won. RAY B. ZAMBRANO

## **PSC** wants Nationals to be GSIS members

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CAN NATIONAL ATHLETES BE members of the Government Service Insurance Service?

With lifetime pension and housing plan in mind, the Philippine Olympic Committee will try to find out whether that idea is feasible to secure the future of the national athletes when they retire.

POC vice president, Rep. Monico Puentevella has volunteered to broker talks among the POC, GSIS and the Philippine Sports Commission. which will act as the athletes' employer under the plan.

"I don't see why GSIS won't cooperate," Puentevella told the INQUIRER. This is a perfect move to ensure the future of the national athletes after their careers are over."

But there's one possible hin-drance, according to PSC executive director Guillermo Iroy.

Iroy said the GSIS, like its counterpart in the private sector, the Social Security System, only extends membership to employees with regular contributions, something that can't be said of the national athletes who are in the PSC payroll only when they are preparing for competitions abroad.

"We must look at the charter of the GSIS first," said Iroy. "One requirement is that you must be a government employee regularly contributing to the fund."

The PSC official said it's the reason enlisted Armed Forces of the Philippines personnel are not GSIS members.

Iroy added it is also the main problem bugging House Bill 9064, which seeks pension and housing privileges for the national athletes. Puentevella said he can arrange a meeting with GSIS president Winston Garcia to facilitate the novel

## No go for Cuban boxing coach

CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO THE Philippines Jorge Rey Jimenez has formally informed the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines that Raul Fernandez Liranza would not be able to return and train the country's finest amateur boxers for the Doha Asian Games and the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Jimenez explained that Liranza, credited for helping Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco win the silver medal in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, has been promoted as head coach of the famed Cuban national boxing team.

Jimenez apologized for the unexpected development in a letter to ABAP president Manny T. Lopez.

Being considered as replacements are Julian Gonzales Cedeno, Julio Mena Torres, Pedro Luis Benitez and Sarbellio Fuentes Rodriguez.



W. Visayas 7175 61

S. Mindanao 6152 50

E. Visayas 0 0 1

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#### PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY FOR THE ENGAGEMENT OF A FINANCIAL ADVISOR FOR THE PRIVATIZATION OF PNOC SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT CORPORATION THROUGH NEGOTIATED BIDDING

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has authorized the privatization of PNOC Shipping and Transport Corporation (PSTC), a company engaged in shipping/tankering of petroleum products.

PSTC is now inviting prospective Financial Advisors to advise, guide and assist in the design, planning, preparation and implementation of the program for the privatization of PNOC-Shipping and Transport Corporation.

Prospective financial advisors who meet the following criteria may secure application forms for pre-qualification has relevant experience as financial advisor in the shipping and maritime

has advised governments on privatizations;

if a foreign firm, with office in the Philippines or within Asia and willing to deploy a dedicated team of shipping/maritime experts in the country

Qualified parties may secure pre-qualification forms starting on February 13, 2006 during regular office hours from PNOC-Shipping and Transport Corporation Privatization Committee Secretariat at the 1" Floor, Building 6, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila. Deadline for submission of accomplished forms to the same office will be on March 15, 2006 at 12:00 noon For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Celia R. Tagaro (PNOC-Shipping and

Transport Corporation Privatization Committee Secretariat) at No. (632) 8401442 and Tel/fax no (632) 8401441 The PNOC Shipping and Transport Corporation (PSTC) reserves the right to accept

or reject any Bid to annul the bidding process or to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or

> (Sgd ) EDGARDO M. DEL FONSO Director, PNOC and Chairman, PNOC-Shipping and Transport Corporation

(PDI - Feb 12, 2006)

Privatization Committee



Republic of the Philippines Department of Education DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue Pasig City, Philippines



## INVITATION FOR BIDS

Supply and delivery of Book Bags for High School Students

Loan No. 1654-PHI, Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project

(SEDIP) IFB No.: ADB-BB-SEDIP-2006

The Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this project

that appeared in the "ADB Business Opportunities" issued on December 20, 2005. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contracts for the Supply and Delivery of Book Bags for High School Students

The DepEd through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of the following:

> 2.1 Lot 1. Book Bags for Zone 1: 92,317 pieces 2.2 Lot 2: Book Bags for Zone 2: 74,340 pieces

2.3 Lot 3: Book Bags for Zone 3: 337,094 pieces

2.4 Lot 4: Book Bags for Zone 4: 288,573 pleces

International Competitive Bidding (ICB) will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single Stage. One Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from DepED and inspect the Bidding Documents from 9 00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting February 6, 2006 at the Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Pasig City, Philippines, at Tel. Nos. (632) 636-6543/633-9343 or at Fax No (632)635-6542. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org.

The Bidding Documents in the English language may be purchased by Interested eligible bidders to the address given in paragraph 5 upon payment of a nonrefundable lee in the amount of Php 3,000 00. The method of payment will be cash, cashier's check, manager's check, or certified check

Bids must be delivered to Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines at or before 10 00 a.m. on April 7, 2006. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of 2 0% of the total bid amount, in Philippine peso or in any freely convertible currency of eligible countries. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the given address, time and

Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference shall be conducted on February 21, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the same address indicated in paragraph 7

The DepEd reserves the right to accept and reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process at any time prior to award of Contract(s) without incurring any liability to the affected bidders and to waive any minor informality or non conformity in a bid which does not constitute a material deviation, provided such waiver will not prejudice or affect competitive ranking of any bid

The Department of Education will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids

> (Sgd.) ATTY. CAMILO MIGUEL M. MONTESA Assistant Secretary and Chairman,

**Bids and Awards Committee** 

(PDI - February 5 & 12, 2006)

## Nuggets snap Mavs' streak

DENVER, COLORADO—KENYON MARTIN scored a season-high 34 points here Friday as the Denver Nuggets posted a 113-104 victory over Dallas and ended the Mavericks' 13-game National Basketball Association winning streak.

Martin had his best game of the season, making 14-of-18 shots and grabbing nine rebounds in 37 dominant minutes. He fell one point shy of matching his career high. The Nuggets had lost six of their last seven games.

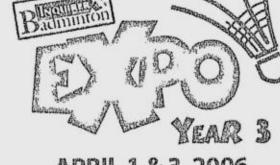
COMPLETE RESULTS: Washington 101, Cleveland 89; Detroit 84, Orlando 73; Boston 115, Portland 83; San Antonio 83, New Jersey 73; Toronto 87, Charlotte 73; Indiana 107, Golden State 95 N.O.; Oklahoma City 111, NY Knicks 100; Utah 94, Minnesota 80; Phoenix 112, Sacramento 104; Seattle 99, Atlanta 91; Denver 113, Dallas 104; LA Clippers 91, Memphis



THIRD PLACE: Air 21 Express, with team owner Bert Lina and wife Sylvia, celebrate after beating Barangay Ginebra in their battle for third place in the PBA.







APRIL 1 & 3, 2006 ROCKWELL TENT

JOIN THE FUN and LET YOUR BRANDS STAND OUT!

FOR BOOTH RESERVATIONS AND INQUIRIES, CALL MS. CHING DELA CRUZ AT 897-8808.

## learning center

ANAHEIM, CALIFOR-Woods nia—Tiger called it the best day of his career, and he never even hit a shot.

Instead of putting a golf club in his hand, he gripped an oversized pair of scissors and cut the ceremonial ribbon to officially open his \$25 million (euro20.9 million) Tiger Woods Learning Center, aimed at helping children find their way.

At the end of an hour-long ceremony that featured former President Clinton and Maria Shriver, the wife California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. City officials thanked Woods for bringing the learning center to his old neighborhood, then unveiled a street sign: Tiger Woods Way. "This is bigger than golf," said Woods. "This is bigger than anything I've done on the golf course. Because we will be able to shape lives."

## Stadler up in JW Classic

PERTH, AUSTRALIA-

American Kevin Stadler eagled the last hole of the day to regain control of the \$2.1 million Johnnie Walker Classic Saturday, wresting a two-stroke overnight lead from Korean KJ Choi. Stadler finished the round with a 6under par 66 to be twoshots clear of Chol and Australian Richard Green, both 15-under for the tournament after the third round.

PINGO BONANZA



presented by:







The Bingo Bonanza Philippine Open, the very first in the country, promises the ultimate badminton experience never before felt in home soil.

> Watch the best Filipino players compete against some of the world's finest shuttlers in this four-star tournament,

which marks the first annual International Badminton Federation event in the country and expected to turn out 200 international players from 15 countries.

Enjoy the play of badminton powers China, Malaysia, Korea, Denmark and Indonesia as well as regular campaigners from Europe, as they chase for top honors in the singles and doubles (men's and ladies') and mixed doubles events and vie for a \$120,000 total purse while obtaining world-ranking points.

See you at the most exciting badminton event in the Philippines!

# BINGO BONANZA LIPPINE

ORTS ARENA



MARCH 1 - 3: P 200, P 150, P 100, P 50, P 10 MARCH 4 - 5: P 500, P 350, P 250, P 150, P 20

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# Sunday Sports '3-peat' for Gerard-JR in pro-am

By Jong Arcano

SILANG, CAVITE—GERARD CANTADA AND JR Tanpinco have become too comfortable playing the one-ball twosome format together that nothing seems to scare them anymore-not even an imposing four-stroke deficit with just eight holes to go-in their bid for glory.

The wide-bodied Cantada and Tanpinco won the Konica Minolta Pro-Am for the third straight time yesterday, showing a lot of tenacity and getting a little luck to deny Richard Abaring and Marvin Dumandan after a torrid shoot-out at the Langer course of the Riviera Golf and Country Club.

The Cantada-Tanpinco tandem rallied with a 74 for a 304 total, finishing three strokes clear of Abaring and Dumandan, who collapsed coming home for a 79 in the P1.7 million event presented by Bert Bravo's U-Bix Corp. and Konica Minolta Technologies of Japan.

The Abaring-Dumandan duo had the title for the taking until their cohesive play disintegrated in the face of a searing comeback by the defending champions, who trailed by four after the 10th hole.

Tanpinco drove the par-4 15th green to set up a two-putt birdie and cap a rally that gave his partnership with Cantada the lead before Dumandan gave it all away on the next hole, the short par-3 17th.

Dumandan, a member of the 2005 SEA Games champion team, skulled his tee shot using a 56-degree wedge and found the hazard at the back of the green in a sorry



UBIX Chair Edgardo Bravo (left) and Konica Minolta Gen. Manager Tadahiko Sumitani congratulates Gerald Cantada and JR Tanpinco after winning the Konica Minolta Golf Championship held at the Riviera Golf Club in Cavite. ERKARAZAS

Lito Rempojo and Gene Bondoc settled for fourth at 310 after a 77 while Juvic Pagunsan, playing his

miscue which sealed his team's first full professional event on local soil, watched his amateur partner Dennis Canoy sink a long par-saver on the 18th to salvage fourth place

Cantada, a teaching pro at Wack Wack, went home with a P234,940 paycheck while Tanpinco got more than P50,000 worth of merchan-

The partnership is in peril, however, as Tanpinco is preparing to attend the San Diego Golf Academy in the United States this coming Ju-

"I'm not too sure if we can play together again next year," said Tan-

Cantada would like to savor the joy of their three-peat feat for the meantime.

"Let me worry about that later. I'm just very happy that we pulled it off again considering that we fell behind by as many as four strokes."

They never felt the pressure at all, according to Cantada, but it could have been a lot different if not for that lucky break on the 15th.

Completing the Top 10 were Zaldy Salvador-Rufino Bayron (80-313), Solomon Gines-Erwin Vinluan (75-313), Ronnie Casas-Ferdie Aunzo (78-314), Jess Casas-Boyet Saragoza (78-314), Orland Sumcad-Gerald Katigbak (76-315) and Lee Seong Ki-Ahn Woong Jin (80-

## **Zombies & U-Bix**

SILANG, CAVITE-THE KONICA MINOLTA National Pro-Am that ended yesterday at the Riviera here will go to the books as the most wind-blown ever. For four days, winds as strong as 60 kph swept Langer, toppling banana trunks, deforming, if not dropping, floppy coconut leaves and bending flagsticks. Yet, there was not a single drop of rain in four days.

It was just wind, wind and more wind. "I slept at the Clubhouse quarters on the eve of the tournament and I could feel that winds of unusual power would blow the next morning," said Henry P. Arabelo, Marketing & Events Manager of Riviera who worked as the event's tournament director. "The winds that evening blew all night. And they were really that strong."

The winds came every day from Feb. 8 to Feb. 11, as in a song that refuses to leave the

So strong, indeed, were the winds scores went, unbelievably, sky-high-literally, that is.

The leaders after three days-Richard Abaring and Marvin Dumandan-were 15 over at 228 on 74-79-75.

That was the highest since Bert Bravo of U-Bix Corp. revived the fabled event in 2001. But wait, what about this?

The cutoff mark of 246-33 over-was also the highest since the tournament began in 1958 at the now-defunct Fort Bonifacio. (The event died with the privatization of Fort Boni-

These are not only interesting times on virtually all spheres of life, these are also unusual ond only to The Beatles. times on virtually all spheres of sporting life.

While poverty stalks the land and is usually used to lure the poor into almost make-believe riches through all kinds of rackets imaginable, the weather here has been mostly bright while the winds, usually blitzing Riviera when the skies are overcast, blew in wild abandon for four days ending yesterday.

"I am at a loss for words to describe this phenomenon," said Danny Pizarro, the Riviera president. "I've been here for years now but this is my first time to experience this kind of weather."

Is Al Gore listening?

Pizarro, himself a good golfer with senior international trophies tucked under his belt, had as partner in the one-ball, twosome tournament, Danny Zarate, one of the biggest lights in Philippine golf.

But not even their partnership, described as "dangerous" in the 108-team field, could contend in the P1.7-million tournament presented by U-Bix.

CALATAGAN, BATANGAS—THE SECOND NA-

tional Caddies' Open has been moved to March

12-16 over the same three venues to give aspi-

Caddies, their sons and golf course employees

like greens and grounds-keepers and even driving

range tee boys who are 25 and below are qualified

provided they submit the pertinent documents and

certified true copy of his birth certificate or any

identification card that would prove that he was

born not before 1981.

Each participant must furnish the organizers a

are endorsed by the golf clubs they will represent.

rants time to secure eligibility requirements.

#### SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

Going to yesterday's final round (I wrote this in advance for deadline purposes), Pizarro and Zarate, the one-time Nomura individual champion, hit the cut-off mark on the dot: 246 on three unlikely rounds of 82-82-

"At least we can boast to one and all that we were the most consistent team after three rounds," joked Pizarro.

There will always be winners as there will always be losers.

In a sense, Langer beat the field this time, although it can also be said that the elements, the winds particularly, defeated man-again. Indeed, against the elements, man is no

Paradoxically, U-Bix, a perennial golf patron, has become part of that golf lore.

Take a bow, Kabsat Bert.

The Zombies came in that era I call golden, when the best music groups sprouted like mushrooms from England led by The Beatles.

The first time I heard their music, The Zombies immediately struck me as the best-sec-

Most of the so-called Big Bands from England came here in the Sixties, but I made sure not to miss The Zombies and The Beatles when they came here in 1966. I sold caimitos and santols grown from our backyard in Mangatarem, Pangasinan, to be able to buy Pantranco fare in both of those trips to Manila.

Tomorrow, Feb. 13, I'll relive those days when I watch The Zombies perform a second time at the Araneta Coliseum. I can tell you in advance "the way I feel inside" the minute they start playing.

Heavenly.

Caddies' tilt reset March 12

FASTBREAK. Under the expert guidance of Joe Dagdagan, Riviera's golf course director, are Ferdie Castro and Robert Dilig, the superintendents at Langer and Couples, respectively. Without this triumvirate, the Riviera wouldn't be in tip-top shape all year round.

Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net

round and the first 36 holes to be played at tough

Calatagan here, and the third round at Canlubang

in Laguna, will have only the top 20 scores and ties

Nomination forms from golf courses can be

faxed or hand-carried to the NCO secretariat at Ca-

latagan (fax (0919) 5470619) or Wack Wack c/o

For inquiries, call Dave Hemandez at (0917)

The top three placers last year and three other

promising talents were taken into the long-term

program of the organization and have seen their

Carlito Cernal (02)7238556 on or before Feb. 28.

advancing to the final round at Wack Wack.

8425275 and (0917) 8425257.

## ICTSI backs Jenny's LPGA stint

A HEALTHIER JENNIFER ROSALES, her game as solid as ever, leaves for Hawaii today as she starts her 2006 LPGA season by defending the SBS Open at Turtle Bay Resort's Palmer course on Feb. 16.

With her wrist fully recovered, the 27year-old, two-time tour winner is looking at a brighter season and actually aims to surpass the \$1 million mark in earnings this year.

Rosales, who finished 26th in the ADT Order of Merit last year after making slightly over \$500,000, recently inked a partnership with golf patron Ricky Ra-

2004 Chick fil-A Charity event, fashioned out her wire-to-wire win in the inaugural staging of the \$1 million SBS event last year by firing rounds of 66, 69 and 73. Among those who gave chase and failed were then amateur star Michelle Wie and Cristie Kerr.

But her fragile wrist gave way a few weeks after and the five-time RP Ladies Open champion was forced to withdraw from a number of tournaments, the British Open included.

"My wrist is okay now and I hope to do better this year," said Rosales. "I am also honored to be associated with ICT-

Rosales, whose other win came in the SI, whose entry into the local golf scene has helped our players, especially the young ones who could be the country's future superstars."

"In behalf of ICTSI chair and president Ricky Razon Jr., we would like to announce that we're so proud to be Jenny's partner as she resumes her campaign on the LPGA Tour," said Narlene "Nana" Soriano during the launch of 2006 The Country Club Invitational Friday.

ICSII has been in the forefront of golf development in the country the last few years, having maintained a pool of players under noted coach Bong Lopez, who is also Rosales' swing guru.

## 3rd Piata Cup stakes Suzuki

TOMORROW'S THIRD STAGING OF THE PHIlippine IATA Agents Travel Association - (Piata) Golf Cup at the Sta. Elena Golf Club course in Laguna will stake a Suzuki APV and at least 30 tickets to various destinations all over the world.

The Suzuki APV courtesy of Suzuki Auto Makati and Pioneer Insurance will be up for grabs as a hole-in-one prize in the 18-hole tourney copresented by DPC Yellow Pages and Transnational Diversified Group.

Major Sponsors are Amadeus, Galileo, Philippine Airlines, Northwest Airlines, Lufthansa, KLM, Etihad Airways, Cathay Pacific Airways, Eurail and Pulmantur.

Tickets to the Americas, Europe and Asia donated by British Airways, Japan Airlines, Continental Airlines, Eva Air, Malaysian Airlines, China Airlines, Royal Brunei, Singapore Airlines, Cebu Pacific, Thai Airways and Air Macau will be raffled off. Hole sponsors are Teledatacom Philippines Inc., Montemar Beach Club, American Airlines, Philcomsat Holdings, Multisigns Specialists Inc., Paircargo, Airlift Asia, ABS-CBN, Prudentialife, Suarez & Sons, Deutsche Bank.

Other sponsors are Patio Pacific, Manila Hotel, Manila Peninsula, Hotel Philippine Plaza, Seawinds Boracay, Sunbolt, Golf King, Revlon, Big Shot Bubble Gum/XL Spearmint Chewing Gum, KBS Travel, Macau Gov't Tourist Office and Figaro.

Dutch stars join

Philippine Open

ATHENS OLYMPICS SILVER MEDALIST MIA AUDI

month when she spearheads the bid of fancied The

Open Badminton Championships firing off March 1 at

the Philsports Arena. Tjiptawan was among the top

finest players during the MVP Cup here last year and

the 27-year-old Indonesian heads a four-player Dutch

event presented by PLDT Business Solutions. That in-

cludes world No. 6 ladies singles player Yao Jie, 2004

Olympiad quarterfinalist Bruil Lotte and veteran cam-

participation in the IMG-organized event, sponsored

by Bingo Bonanza, JVC, PLDT and Smart. Reigning

Olympic and world champion Taufik Hidayat is the

paigner Dicky Palyama, who have confirmed their

squad which will vie for top honors in the \$120,000

European shuttlers who slugged it out with Asia's

Netherlands in the first Bingo Bonanza Philippine

na Tjiptawan brings back her act to Manila next

## SPORTSWATCH Condes dethrones Gejon for RP crown

FLORANTE CONDES CAPTURED THE PHILIPPINE MINI FLYWEIGHT CHAMPIonship Thursday by knocking out defending champion Elmer Gejon in the fifth round of a scheduled 12-rounder in Mandaluyong City. Condes a wicked shot to Gejon's breadbasket, sending the latter down for good. The win improved Cons. ... des' record to 11 wins (11 knockouts) against three losses. Gejon, who took the Philippine title in early 2004, had defended the title twice before running into the Salven L. Lagumbay

Pahayahay-Rodrigo bout on TV

FISTORAMA FEATURES THIS AFTERNOON THE BOUT BETWEEN FORMER Philippine flyweight champion Jerry Pahayahay and Jojo Rodrigo in a 10-round bout. It was part of Edgardo "Boy" Cantada's fight card held recently at the provincial capitol of Misamis Oriental in Cagayan de Oro City. Fistorama is shown through ABS-CBN Global Limited's Pinoy Central TV and RPN-9 starting at 3:30 p.m. "Golf Power Plus" airs at 3 featuring Adamson U Team 1 against Adamson U Team 3 in the 1st Samsung Inter-Collegiate Women's Beach Volleyball Challenge.



NEW NBC MEMBER: North Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol (left) shakes hands with National Basketball Conference's Tito Palma to seal the North Cotabato Braves' entry into the league. With them are Magtep Mayor and team manager Efren Piñol and provincial administrator Jun Piñol.

## 250 fights in Araneta tourney

THE LUZON-BASED GAMECOCK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (LBGBA) WILL launch the Philippine Heritage Cup 2006 5-cock derby on Feb. 21 and 23 at the Araneta Coliseum. Because of the big number of fights (minimum of 250), the participant must field straight five cocks on either the first or second day. Each day of action dangles a guaranteed prize of P600,000 or a total of P1.2 million. Entry fee is P10,000. Backing up the classic encounter are Gran Matador and B-Meg Derby Ace. The LBGBA is composed of LGBA, CVGBA, GBAT, KGBA, BBC, Bigba, Unigba and Tagba. For inquiries, contact 926-7808 and 924-5072 (Taz Lunasco).

Makati 3-cock derby set Feb. 13

ANOTHER 3-COCK DERBY, WITH 35 TOPNOTCH ENTRIES, ARE LINED UP tomorrow at the air-conditioned Makati Collseum with B-Meg Derby Ace as exclusive sponsor. For an entry fee of P5,500, the guaranteed prize is P150,000, said host Amor Salvanera. Participants are requested to submit their entries today from 2-9 p.m. For details, call 896-3545 and 895-6475. The WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp. will present a 3-cock event on Feb. 15, with P200,000 in guaranteed prize. Entry fee is P5,500.

Sunday special at Las Piñas Coliseum

WITH NO OTHER SCHEDULED DERBIES IN METRO MANILA, ALL ROADS LEAD to Las Piñas Collseum tonight as the Sunday Special 3-cock derby sizzles at 7 with 50 encounters programmed. A cash prize of P300,000 is at stake, said hosts Arki dela Cruz and Otoy Abarsoza. Weights limits allowed are from 1.8-2.4 kg. For inquiries, call 873-1040 and 874-3910 (Julius). The El Matador 4-cock derby of lawyer Ching Morales and former Mayor Nene Agullar fires off on Feb. 18. Regular hackfights at LPC is from Monday to Sunday, said collseum manager Alex Tobias.

## lives change for the better. The 72-hole tournament, with the practice Driver of the Year race revs up today



SAN Miguel Beer-Erg Alcotonic driver Jody Coseteng (front) hopes to keep his pace against Kookie Ramirez in today's fifth leg of the Philippine National Touring Car Championships 2005.

THE CHASE FOR THE COVETED third with 107 points in this event Driver of the Year award intensifies as top contenders try to outdo each other in the fifth and penultimate round of the Philippine National Touring Car Championship 2005 today

at the Subic International Raceway. Though way ahead with 182 points, Jody Coseteng of San Miguel Beer-Erg Alcotonic will seek another sweep against main pursuers Kookie Ramirez of Petron Ultron-SRA and Enzo Pastor of Team TEC-Eneos.

Ramirez is second overall with 145 points while Enzo Pastor is

sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines. "Nothing is sure yet for now," said Coseteng, "There are still four races

and each win is worth 25 points."

Also entered are Louis Ramirez of Petron Ultron-SRA, Philip Alvendia of A3 Motorsports/Malayan Automasters Touring Car Team, Dennis Uy of Velocity Motors-H&R-Conocoracing Team, Dominic Bon, the MP Turbo trio of Carlos Anton, Jonathan Buxton, Mike Potenciano and lady driver Gabby de la Merced of Big Shot Billiards.

Race 1—(Ort/Tri)—Screaming Eagle (6), He's A Balong (3), I Remain (1), Wild Orphan (2)
Race 2—(Ort/Tri)—Slew Dancer (6), Detective Daryll (2), Pure Energy (4), Yo Tero (1)
Race 3—(Ort/Tri)—Sliver Cho Cho (4), Jokes Only (8), Magic Dancer (3), Noor (1)
Race 4—(Ort/Tri)—Vitality (5), Dona Gelay (7), Spinning Bullet (4), Sir Guipuy (3)
Race 6—(Penta/Tri)—Nothing To Declare (1), Five O'Clock (7), Step On The Gas (4), Native Prince (5),

BY TOP CHOICE

Rate 7—(Ort/Irl)—Ravishing
Rate 7—(Ort/Irl)—Ravishing
Rate (1), Smooth Strike
(2), Calontine Dancer (7),
Hurry Prince (3)
Race 8—(Ort/Irl)—Mapic Evan
Ko (4), Kitana (8), Ptayur's
Tivist (7), Record Holder (5)
Race 9—(Perta/Irl)—Chanot Of fire
(3), Michael Da Dragon (12),
Caiforna Lndy (11), Frosty

Baty (4), Golden Link (5)
Race 10—(Ort/In)—Leave No
Doubt (7), Sweet Connections (8), Tres Jeune (6),

tions (8), Tres Jeune (6), Penny Wise (3)

Race 11—(Penta/Til)—Tool Pusher (7), King 1ot (10, Jaw Breaker (5), Stradinatus (12), Tuly Impressava (6)

Race 12—(Ozt/Tin)—Candu (4), Karma (7), Mika's Dream (5), Crafty Treasure (3)

Race 13—(Super 6/Ort/Tif)—Eten's Quest (8), Earth Angel (4), Golden Issue (12), West N Wild (10), Lakarnbini (5), Happy Again (6)



For a 'big sum,' ABC 5 acquires franchise for the 'American Idol'

# Finally, 'Philippine Idol'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IT'S CONFIRMED.

ABC 5 has acquired the franchise for the worldfamous talent search "American Idol" (AI) from the show's producer; FremantleMedia.

"It will be called 'Philippine Idol,'" said Perci Intalan, ABC's vice president for Creative and Entertainment Production. He called INQUIRER Entertainment from Singapore, where he was meeting with Fremantle Asia execs over the weekend.

The local Idol will be the fifth in Asia, he said. "The others are in Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and India. There are over 50 'Idol' productions all over the world." AI was inspired by "Pop Idol," which originated in the United Kingdom in 2001. ABC 5 is eyeing a July launch.

Terra Daffon, senior vice president for Corporate Affairs, said ABC 5 started negotiating with FremantleMedia two years ago, when Filipino-American Jasmine Trias placed third in AI.

"ABC 5 has built a good working relationship with FremantleMedia through the years," she said. "In the past, the network acquired two of their game shows-'Family Feud' and 'The Price is Right.' Now we're airing Al's season five."

#### Al 'bible'

The price tag for the AI franchise is reportedly in the millions of dollars.

"It's a big sum," Intalan conceded.

"It's definitely not peanuts, but we expect to recoup the investment," Daffon said. "You're actually paying for the technical know-how. Along with the franchise comes a production 'bible,' a manual that all licensees follow to ensure consistency of all 'Idol' productions anywhere in the world."

"It's literally as thick as a bible," Intalan said by way of describing the manual. "There's a new and old testament! Imagine, two volumes of an encyclopedia combined. It contains all the production

"For example," Daffon explained, "the look and the measurements of the set, the lighting, the requirements for host and judges. Also, the conduct of the auditions, which we are planning to hold in Manila, Cebu and Davao."

## 'Boss Vic' defends new plan

By Marinel R. Cruz

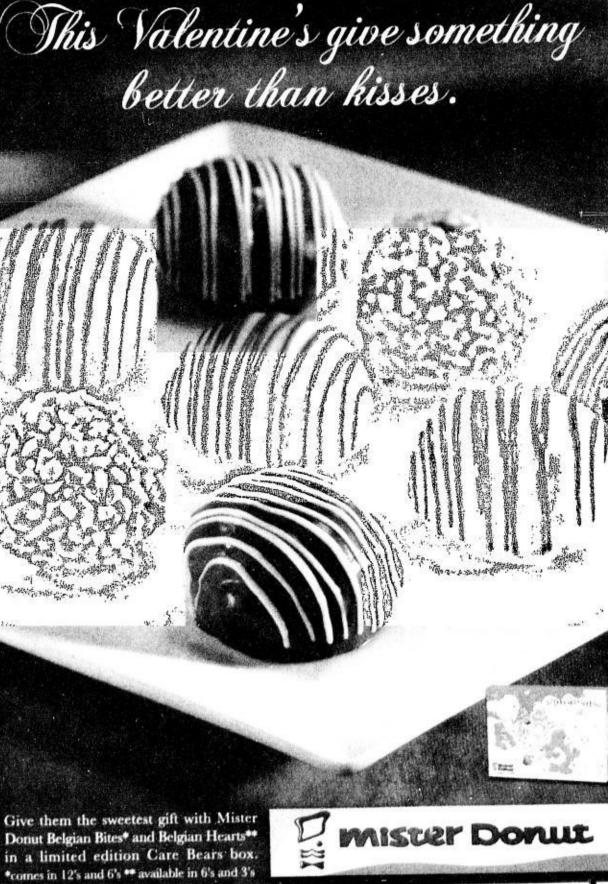
"I DON'T HAVE TO consult the FAP (Film Academy of the Philippines). I work for the President, I give my recommendations and leave the decision to her," declared Vic Rosario, presidential consultant for the entertainment industry.

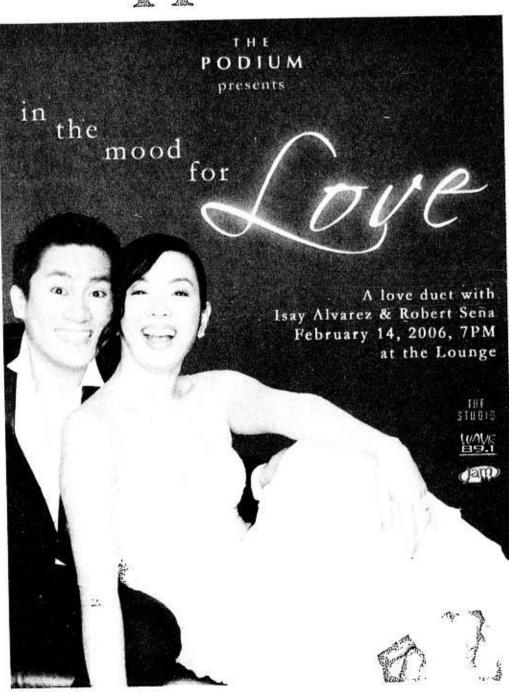
Del Rosario was reacting to the complaints of FAP director general Leo Martinez about the reallocation of the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) funds.

Martinez accused Del Rosario of "manipulating" the MMFF Sharing Scheme and offices "favoring headed by people closely identified with him," such as the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) chaired by Jacky Atienza and the Optical Media Board (OMB), by Edu Man-

From 30 percent, FAP's share was cut to 10 percent, Martinez told Inquirer Entertainment in a previous interview. He said two new beneficiaries-the FDCP and OMB-will now get 20 percent each.

As such the MMFF proceeds fund will now be divided among the FAP, the FDCP, the OMB, the Movie Workers Welfare Foundation (30









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# Darna, and 'Zima

#### By Bayani San Diego Jr.

"WOMEN AS CULTURAL BEARERS" IS THE THEME OF the 12th "Pelikula at Lipunan" film festival, organized by the Mowelfund Film Institute and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

Dubbed "Aktres," this year's festival will run from Feb. 24 to March 19 at the Gateway Mall in Cubao, Quezon

Mowelfund's Nick Deocampo has included at least 35 "classics of Philippine cinema" in the lineup—films that showcase strong and varied women characters.

To be screened are vintage films like "Giliw Ko" (starring Mila del Sol and Mona Lisa), "Sisa" (Anita Linda), "Anak Dalita" (Rosa Rosal) and "Sanda Wong" (Lilia Dizon), alongside more recent gems like "Tatlong Taong Walang Diyos" (starring Nora Aunor), "Relasyon" (Vilma Santos), "Private Show" (Jaclyn Jose), and "Bituing Walang Ningning" (Sharon Cuneta).

Deocampo said proceeds will finance the completion of Mowelfund's archives. "Our nation's [biggest] actresses will save the country's cinematic treasures," he pointed out.

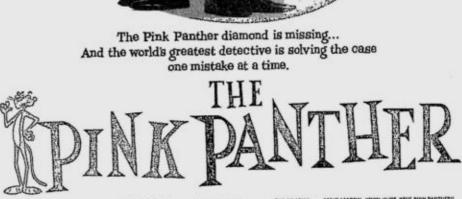
In time for the fest, he will unveil three "lost" Filipino films that were found in Thailand's archives.

Deocampo gave Inquirer Entertainment an exclusive peek at the three finds—"Darna" starring the recently departed Rosa del Rosario; "Dyesebel," with Edna Luna and Jaime de la Rosa; and "Banga ni Zimadar," with Edna Luna and Efren Reyes Sr.

Dome Sukvhong, chief film archivist of Thailand, entrusted to Deocampo VCD and Betacam copies of the three movies, plus one other film that they've yet to

"At first, we thought it was 'Roberta,' " Deocampo said. "It's also about a little girl."

The "Darna" retrieved in Thailand, however, only consists of the first reel that focuses on Valentina (the snake woman portrayed by Cristina Aragon); the other reel, where Rosa del Rosario first appears as Darna, is



METRO-GOLOWYH-MAYER PICTURES AND COLUMBIA PICTURES PICKINTA ROBERT SIMONES PROGREM A SHAWHILEYY HIM. STEVE MARIIN XEVIH XURE "THE PHIX PANTHER"

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OPENS FEB. 15

# OPENS FEB.22 THE FINAL CHAPTER TO THE #1 HORROR HIT DEATH COMES ALIVE AGAIN

## Boss Vid

## From page A2-I

percent), the Anti-Film Piracy Council (10 percent) and the Presidential Social Fund (10 percent).

Martinez criticized Del Rosario for not consulting the FAP before proposing the new scheme to President Macapagal-Arroyo.. .

Del Rosario said that wouldn't have done any good: "None of them would have agreeed. [Unlike Martinez], I look at the indus: try's problem from a broader perspective. Whatever I recommend to the President, I make sure it will benefit not just a [few]." He added that only the

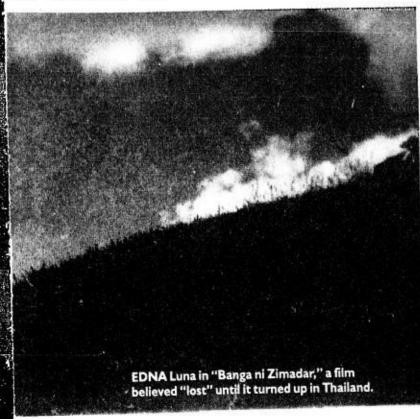
Mowelfund benefited from the MMFF fund until three years ago, "when the Presi-dent decided that the mon ey should go to everyone in

the industry."

"Ang Mowelfund ang unang nasaktan," pointed out Del Rosario, who is also chief executive officer of Viva Entertainment Inc. "But at least now, many sectors will benefit."

Last year, Del Rosario pointed out, it was Martinez who requested that the FAP's allocation be raised from 30 percent to 40 percent. "His request was not granted," Del Rosario said. "You must know [that] the FAP uses its funds for the training of the members of its (actors, directors and screenwriters] guilds. But not everyone in the industry are FAP members [and its] only major project is pro-

## INMENT



# Dyeschel? lar' come home

## Mowelfund's 'Pelikula at Lipunan' pays tribute to local movie queens past and present

"It is still among thousands of film cans in Thailand," Deocampo said. "I'm thinking of hiring Thai archivists to look for it, but it's like looking for the proverbial needle in a haystack."

Also, the 39-minute "Darna" lacks sound; the rest are dubbed in Cantonese.

Deocampo hopes to invite Edna Luna-star of "Dyesebel" and "Zimadar," who is now based in San Diego, California—to the film fest.

"Also on our guest list are the country's movie queens, past and present," he said. "Aside from the screenings, we plan to hold seminars and exhibits."

The Mowelfund archives will house not only the foundation's extensive collection, but also films from the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) and the Philippine Information Agency (PIA).

"Around 1,000 titles were turned over to us by the MTRCB and PIA," Deocampo said. "Like Minsa'y Isang Gamugamo,' Misteryo sa Tuwa,' Hubad sa Gubat... The [excised portions] are also with us. These films are deteriorating every day. That's why we need to act fast and build film vaults."

Apart from the festival, Mowelfund is raising funds from the sale of several films to ABC 5-Manuel Conde's "Krus na Kawayan," Eduardo de Castro's "Zamboanga," Eddie Romero's "Banta ng Kahapon" and "Passionate Strangers," and Deocampo's "Oliver," "Memo-ries of Old Manila" and "Revolutions Happen Like Refrains in a Song.'

Also acquired by ABC was the 1959 film "Seksing Seksi (Mapanghalina)," produced by Luis Nolasco and starring Leopoldo Salcedo and Aura Aurea.

"With the help of these old films, we will be allowed to preserve and recover other movies," Deocampo said.

## defends



**DEL ROSARIO** 



MARTINEZ

ducing its annual awards show.

Del Rosario added: "Leo can find out where the moncy will go. Espiridion Laxa, who is PAP chairman, sits in the FDCP Board. Leo can always ask help from the FD-CP. The FAP is entitled to do that."

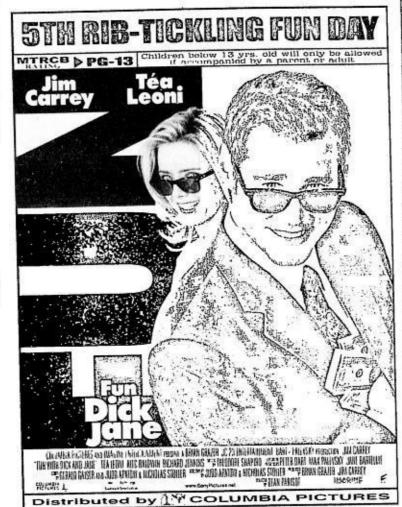
"To avoid talk of conflict of interests," Del Rosario said, he resigned from the Anti-Film Piracy Council on Feb. 8 after being president for eight years. The memorandum ordering the implementation of the new sharing scheme was released by the office of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita on Jan. 24.

Del Rosario said the share of the Presidential Security Fund "flows back to the industry" through prizes and incentives that President Arroyo gives out to producers, directors and screenwriters.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2006



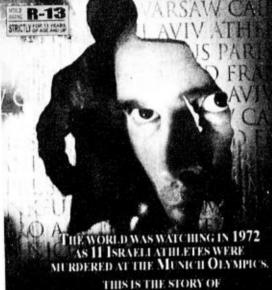
THE MERMAIDS of "Dyesebel." Luna is the one seated on the rock.











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Do 'CSI' shows help criminals clean up?

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THE CAST of "CSI," whose Season 6 starts on Feb. 15 on AXN.



CLEVELAND-WHEN TAMMY KLEIN BEGAN investigating crime scenes eight years ago, it was virtually unheard of for a killer to use

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2006** 

bleach to clean up a bloody mess.

Today, the use of bleach, which destroys DNA, is not unusual in a planned homicide, said the senior criminalist from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Klein and other experts attribute such sophistication to television crime dramas like "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," which give criminals helpful tips on how to cover up evi-

Prosecutors have complained for years about "the CSI effect" on juries—an expectation in every trial for the type of high-tech forensic evidence the show's investigators uncover. It also appears the popular show and its two spin-offs could be affecting how some crimes are committed.

#### **Educating killers**

"They're actually educating these potential killers even more," said Capt. Ray Peavy, also of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and head of the homicide division.

A man charged in a recent double-homicide in northeast Ohio was a "CSI" fan and went to great lengths to cover his tracks, ac-cording to an affidavit filed by Trumbull County prosecutors.

Jermaine "Maniac" McKinney, 25, allegedly broke into a house, killed a mother and daughter and used bleach to remove their blood from his hands, prosecutors said. He also allegedly covered the interior of a getaway car with blankets to avoid transferring blood.

Prosecutors said McKinney burned the bodies, his clothing and removed his cigarette butts-which would contain his DNA-from the crime scene.

McKinney, who was indicted this month on two counts of aggravated murder, aggravated burglary and other charges, could face the death penalty if convicted. Cases where suspects burn and tamper

with evidence seem to be increasing, said Chuck Morrow, chief of the criminal division in the Trumbull County Prosecutor's office.

"People are getting more sophisticated with making sure they're not leaving trace evidence at crime scenes," Morrow said.

Klein said most crimes aren't well-planned

and that detailed attention to prevent leaving trace evidence typically occurs in cases where someone has killed a family member or business partner.

"For the most part, our killings involve gang bangers who are pretty stupid," she said.

## **Aberrations**

Sophisticated planning and concealment of evidence are aberrations, not the norm, said Larry Pozner, former president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

"Most people who commit crimes are not very bright and don't take many precautions," Pozner said. "CSI and all the other crime shows will make no difference." Yet, in the six years

since CBS, which did not return phone calls seeking comment, introduced "CSI," there's been a trend of fewer clues like hair, cigarette butts and the killer's blood left behind at crime scenes, Peavy said.

The more sophisticated the television story lines get, the better equipped criminals will be, Peavy said, adding that he never watches "CSI" because it's too unrealistic. Joe Milicia, AP



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## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER NTERTAIR

**FIL-AUSSIE** rocker overwhelmed by

A 3 - I

OS ANGELES-THANKS TO NOEL Shaw of New York, who confirmed what I we mentioned in our front page story

Thursday on Oscar nominee Pia Clemente. We wrote of reports that someone had already scored the distinction of being the first Filipino-American to receive an Academy nomination. In an e-mail, Noel wrote: "Our brother Ariel Velasco-Shaw was nominated in 1994 (with three others) for Best Special Effects for his work on 'The Nightmare Before Christmas.' Were it not for some other little movie called 'Jurassic Park,' they may have won! Ariel now works as a visual effects Supervisor."

Noel added, "Kudos to Pia Clemente! Like myself, my sister Angel Velasco-Shaw is a New York-based Filipino-American filmmaker. After telling me the great news that Pia's short film was nominated... Angel reminded me that over 10 years ago, Ms. Clemente had come to us, fresh out of Columbia University's film school, seeking general filmmaking advice. All these years later, we are happy for Pia's success."

So Pia still has the honor of being the first Filipino-American woman to get an Oscar nod.

#### Life after 'Rockstar'

Our Friday column on JD and his new life with the Aussie band INXS prompted us to seek MiG Ayesa and ask him for an update on his own life after "Rockstar: INXS."

"I have just moved to LA from London, and I am busy with getting my life in order once again," came MiG's quick reply via e-mail. "We [moved] from Sydney to London [only] three and a half years ago, and to... move again to yet another country has been arduous, to say the least. However, this time the move has been with much more purpose. My wife, my dog and I have moved to LA with the [prospect] of a recording deal with Universal Records, a car from Honda and a ready-made support group of friends and fans."

MiG, whose full name is Miguel Alfonso Ramon Legarda Ayesa, has quickly been won over by one thing about LA: "The weather is a lot more forgiving than the English winter!" We sensed his excitement when he wrote, "I am currently in pre-production for my debut album and that will be my focus. I hope to have it completed by May 2006."

By coincidence, MiG (from the MiG Jet Fighter, which he used to dream of flying) arrived in LA when JD and his Aussie bandmates were in town. "I saw INXS perform at the Gibson Amphitheatre here the night after we arrived," he told us. His verdict? "I was very impressed. JD sounded great despite the fact he was having voice problems due to an infection. It was fairly early in the tour, so I'm sure he is learning with every concert. I am confident that his performance will improve as the tour progresses."

He continued, "Even though I thought to myself what a great gig it must be to sing with IN-XS, I really didn't envy JD's job. Because despite all our pleas that nobody should be compared to Michael Hutchence, I could not help but do the [comparing] myself. It was great to hear the old INXS hits, but I couldn't help wishing for new takes on the songs. It would have been refreshing to hear maybe an acoustic version of a track, or a rocked-out version of another. They are re-inventing themselves, so they should reinvent their music."

The Pinov-Aussie rocker shared details of the backstage reunion of sorts: "I did go backstage after the show when Kirk (Pengilly of INXS) called for us to join them, and it was great to see them all again. I think the best thing about winning the competition would have been to hang out with all of them. I really like the guys in the band and I miss their energy. I don't know if it was the 'Aussieness,' but it did feel warmly fa-

miliar." The former star of London's musical about the Queen, "We Will Rock You," had more to say about JD: "It was good to see JD again. We left ('Rockstar') having become quite close and it was nice to re-connect. He is not the type to stay in touch, but when we saw each other again, it



TIA Carrere stops "Dancing with the Stars"



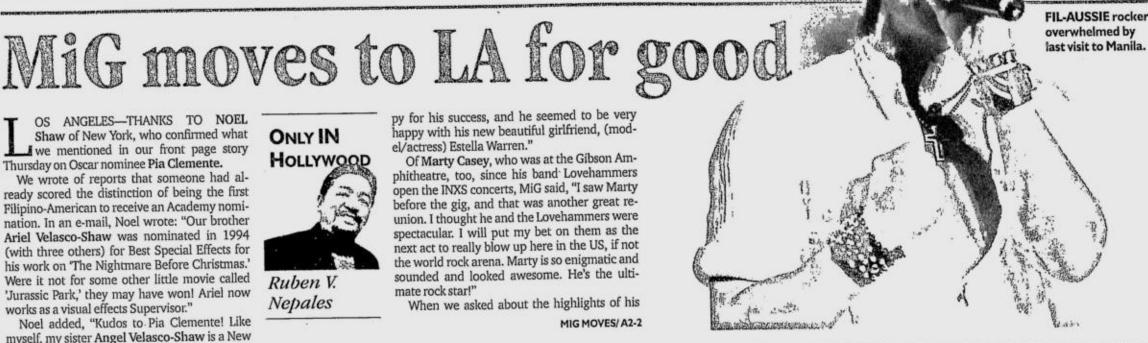
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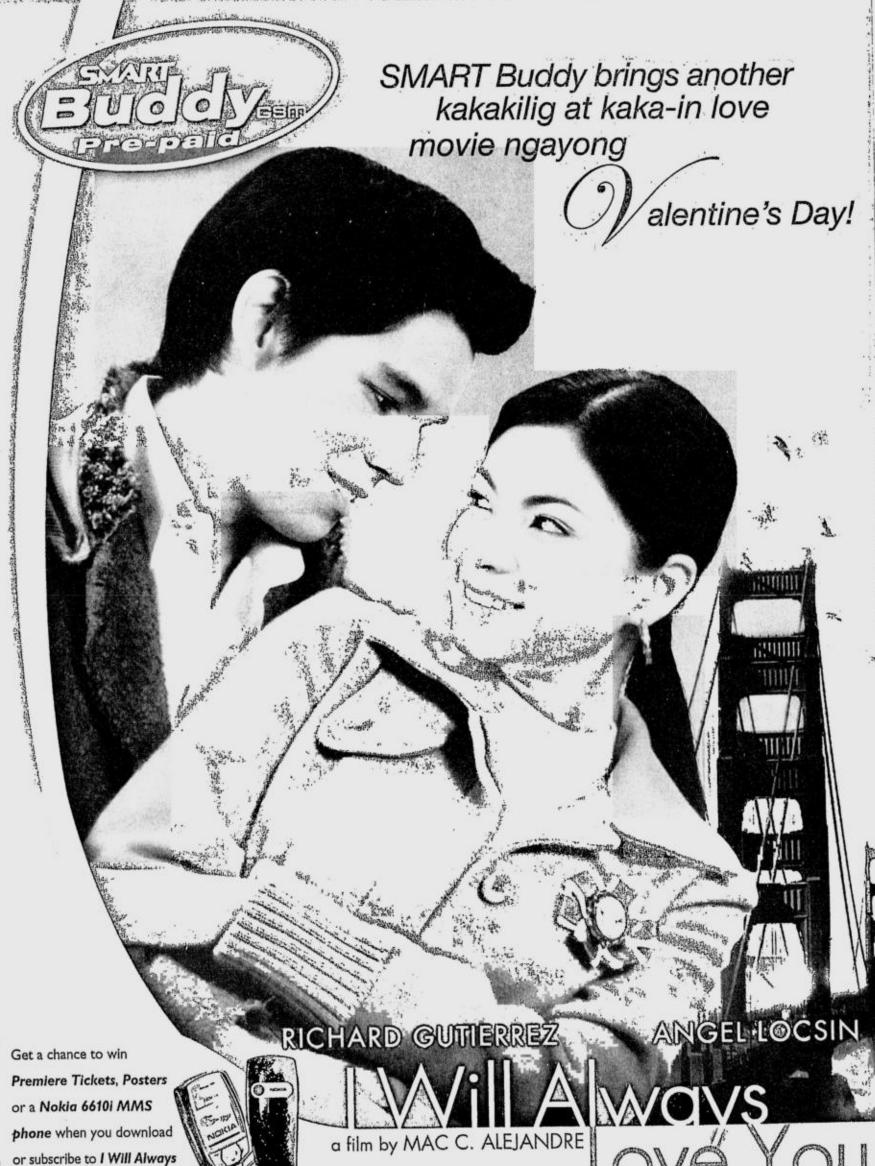
py for his success, and he seemed to be very happy with his new beautiful girlfriend, (model/actress) Estella Warren."

Of Marty Casey, who was at the Gibson Amphitheatre, too, since his band Lovehammers open the INXS concerts, MiG said, "I saw Marty before the gig, and that was another great reunion. I thought he and the Lovehammers were spectacular. I will put my bet on them as the next act to really blow up here in the US, if not the world rock arena. Marty is so enigmatic and sounded and looked awesome. He's the ultimate rock star!"

When we asked about the highlights of his

MIG MOVES/ A2-2





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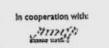


















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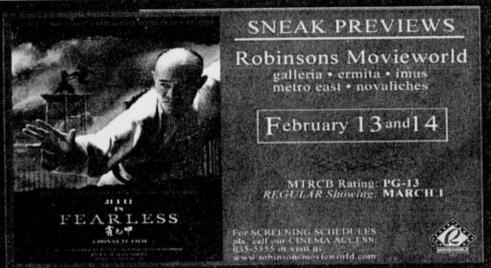
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6 HALF LIGHT .

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## Gender benders on TV are th

MORE GENDER BENDERS ARE throwing viewers for a loop these days. It isn't only films like "Brokeback Mountain" and "Transamerica" that are "Mainstreaming" gender issues, but some TV shows as well.

For instance, on a recent Maury Povich show on the Second Avenue cable channel, the focus was on more than 10 people who had opted to change their gender.

There were men who had undergone sex-change operations and "gender modification" hormone processes to become women. And women who had transformed themselves into men, complete with muscles, beards, gruff voice, etc.

MTRCB G

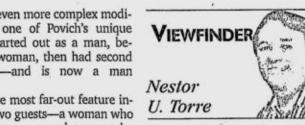
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In an even more complex modification, one of Povich's unique guests started out as a man, became a woman, then had second thoughts-and is now a man

But the most far-out feature involved two guests-a woman who was now a man, and a man who had become a woman-and they now live together as man and wife!

The complex-compound gender acrobatics involved in that final case are truly astounding. But, the two people figuring in that ultimate feat of gender bending say that it was all worth it, because they're now happy, both as individuals and as a married couple.

ALL AGES ADMITTED



Of course, some viewers may wonder if the "bended" marriage could lead to confounding bedtime questions like, "Who does what to whom?" and if natural-born children could result from such a pair-

More graphically, some would want to know how orgasms could be achieved by transformed women or men with surgically created sexual organs.

These thoughts could come to mind, because Povich's show tends to treat such extreme experiences as pop-cultural popcorn, and for shock value.

But the less gaga viewers can still pick up valuable information from such features, to expand his appreciation of the importance of the "right" gender for people who will stop at nothing to become the persons they believe they truly are, sexually speaking.

Lessons learned along these lines need not to be limited to gen-

der issues. Even people never dream of under change operation or their female breasts for can still deepen their s and the exciting range possibilities. Even as v

unbend! Aside from enhancia of self, we can learn to value the choices other themselves, in all life-even if they're r. ferent from what we v

Vive le difference!

for ourselves.

#### 'Emma'

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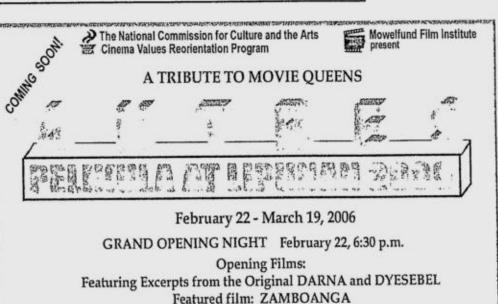
with his two love?

#### 'Into the Sun'

STEVEN Seagal p agent Travis Hunter in thriller "Into the Sun." the Cinemax channel In Japan to solve the m



**PIA Clemente** 



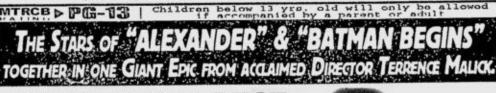
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BASED ON A TRUE STORY

## MiG moves

two visits to the Philippines after h pressive showing in "Rockstar," Mi swered exuberantly: "They were inble trips. It was so different to go be the Philippines and find that eve knew my name. I really felt a conne to the country this time, because I was welcomed back like a long lost think the highlights for me would h be three things. First, the Adver-Congress in Cebu. It was the first felt the pride of the Filipino in what achieved. Second, the MTV Music mit-80,000 people!!! Hello Weml And third, seeing all my relatives and to share this amazing experwith them."

In response to my request for memorable anecdotes about his s the Philippines, the former Londone unteered, "I think one of the tur things I remember from my tripwhen I went into a store and a shop er said, 'MiG!!! You are from "Roc INXS!!!" So... who's winning?' have the heart to tell him the compohad been over for three months.

According to MiG, his return to Australia was just as memorable "I did return to Sydney for a huge concert for Foxtel. 'Rockstar' was shown on cable on Foxtel and It was the highest-rating show that Foxtel had ever aired. I was the headline act for their 10th An niversary celebration. To be on the same lineup as some of my herolike Jon Stevens (ex-INXS from man), Christine Anu, Guy Sebastian, Taxiride, Human Natu: and even David Hasselhoff ... was pretty awesome. It was ... nice to be welcomed back to A:15 tralia and be so well-received They really rolled out the red car pet for me."

This musician who played Ritchie Valens in a hit Aussie p: duction of "The Buddy Holly Sto ry" also went back to his hatt school as a star: "I was inducted to my high school Hall of Fame at >: Patrick's College, Strathfield."

"It was so nice to spend some quality time with my parents ... well," volunteered the 36-year-old singer-composer. "I miss them way too much. I was reminded at how incredibly beautiful Sydner. is, after going on a cruise on the harbor with one of my land friends. Sydney is definitely place to retire and bring up kal-Something to work toward. dream home on the northern beaches of Sydney with lots of little tle MiGlets running about!"

MiG, his wife Simone de la Rue and their dog are moving their new LA digs next week.

## Tia booted

While MiG got tremendant support from Pinoys all over vice world, Fil-Am actress Tia Carrere was not as lucky. She got voted at "Dancing with the Stars" .... week. At least Tia managed to stick around longer than ano: ... actress, Tatum O'Neal. And Tar grateful that as a result of the orous rehearsals for her week dance routines on the TV real to show, she lost more than .'" pounds gained during her I nancy. She became a firstmom to Bianca last Septembe

As we write this, George Hamilton is still in the run but he could have been voted out Friday.

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governor of Tokyo, Hunter uncovers a plan to build a huge drugdealing network in conjunction" with the Chinese Mafia.

#### 'Fearless'

JET Li's action starrer, "Fearless," will hold sneak previews tomorrow and on Tuesday in selected theaters nationwide. Billed as Li's final martial arts film, "Fearless" chronicles the inspiring life of wushu martial arts pioneer Huo Yuanjia.

#### 'Queen It's A Kinda Magic'

CONCERTS Int'l. announces that the theatrical rock production "Oueen It's A Kinda Magic," originally set for Feb. 9, will instead be presented this April. Call 813-

#### 'Midsummer Night's Dream'

WILLIAM Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" will soon be staged by Dramatic Personae at La Consolacion College Manila at 6 p.m. on Feb. 13 and 14. The interactive picnic theater version of the famous play is directed by Lito Casaje. Its lead actors include Alfonso Deza, Deelan Patrick, Daniel Robert Magisa and Doods Jimenez. Call 736-0235 local 34.

## to LA for good

#### Guess who?

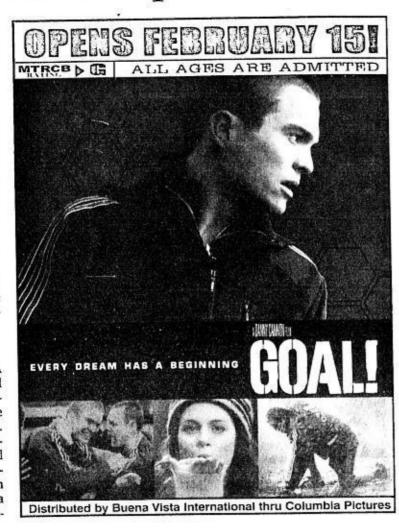
News stories of last Wednesday's Grammy Awards reminded us of this diva singer's strange request when we were being trained how to seat the stars at the recent Globes. She wanted to bring her "aura consultant." The request was turned down, of course, but it gave us pause: Exactly what is an aura consultant? Only in Hollywood, folks!

#### Great feedback

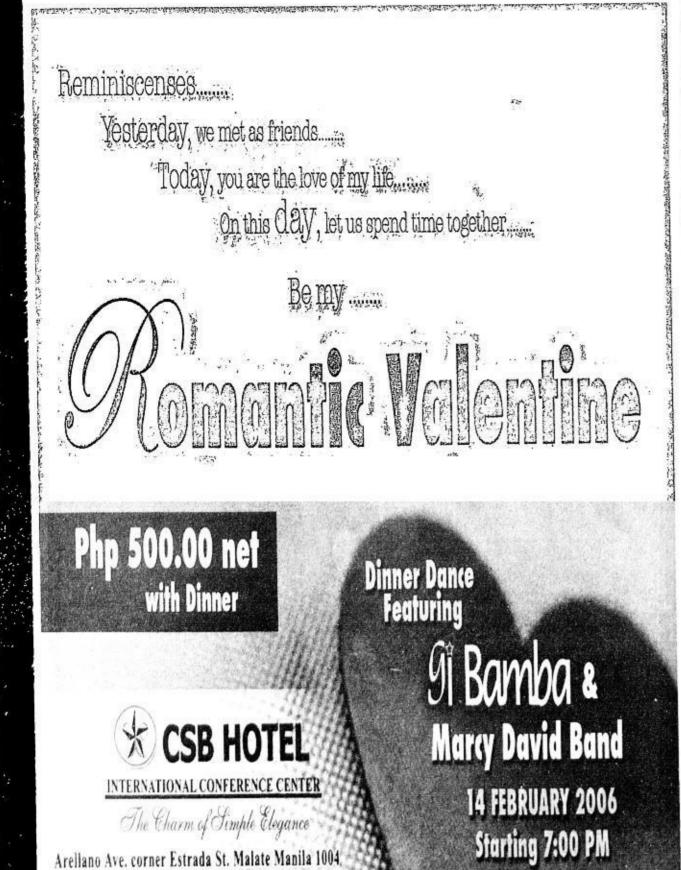
Since we began writing this column, we've been receiving encouraging e-mails from the Philippines and different parts of the world. Our Golden Globe Award coverage drew more feedback than usual. We even heard from former top model and now Connecticut-based Bessie Badilla-del Castillo and acclaimed Fil-Am director David Maquiling.

To all our readers like Bessie and David, thank you! You make writing this column worth it.

(E-mail columnist the rvnepales 5585@yahoo.com.)







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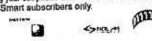
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INTERNATIONAL HALL (2ND Floor)

'I think a lot of people voted for the band as opposed to the album,' says Ken Schlager, executive editor of Billboard magazine

**FELLOW** winner Kanye West

TEW YORK—FETED BY WORLD leaders and honored for their humanitarian work, Irish rockers U2 and their charismatic frontman Bono received the accolades that mattered most Wednesday-from their musical peers.

Barely mentioned in the run-up to the annual Grammy awards, U2 ended up dominating the evening, winning all five categories in which they were nominated, including the prestigious Album and Song of the Year prizes.

The unexpected haul was a reminder of U2's continuing musical influence, which has at times been overshadowed by Bono's high-profile campaigning for causes like AIDS prevention and poverty alleviation.

"If you think this is going to go to our heads, it's too late," Bono said, as he accepted yet another Grammy at the US music industry's biggest party of the year in Los Angeles.

The issue of swollen heads is a sensi-



U2, from left, Larry Mullen, The Edge, Bono and Adam Clayton

tive one for U2 and particularly for Bono whose style of political activism has been dismissed by some critics as sanctimonious preaching.

"There are probably more annoying things than being hectored about African development by a wealthy Irish rock star in a cowboy hat, but I can't

think of one at the moment," the writer Paul Theroux, wrote recently in the New York Times. But for his admirers, includ-

ing the likes of Nelson Mandela, Bill Clinton and Tony Blair, Bono can do little wrong, and he has regularly been mentioned as a future Nobel peace laureate and even a potential head of the World Bank.

He was named one of Time magazine's "Persons of the Year" in 2005, alongside Bill and Melinda Gates, and has been referred to as "a kind of one-man state" and even "an alternative United Na-

Some industry insiders were surprised at the group's success on Wednesday, given that their album, "How To Build An Atomic Bomb," was released in 2004 and is no longer even on the charts.

"I think a lot of people voted for the band as opposed to the album," said Ken Schlager, executive editor of Billboard magazine.

While U2 are hardly in need of a career boost, Schlager said the Grammys were more important for publicizing the esteem in which Bono, The Edge, Larry Mullen and Adam Clayton are held by their peers.

During the ceremony, U2 were publicly thanked by rapper Kanye West among others and performed on stage with soul singer Mary J. Blige.

"What you saw was 360 degrees of the music industry really adoring this group," Schlager said. "They are without doubt the best live popular music act in the world right now. That, more than anything else, makes them huge

Nearly always dressed in black and always with his signature wrap-around tinted glasses, Bono has, in recent years, become as comfortable in the political arena as in 60,000-seat stadiums.

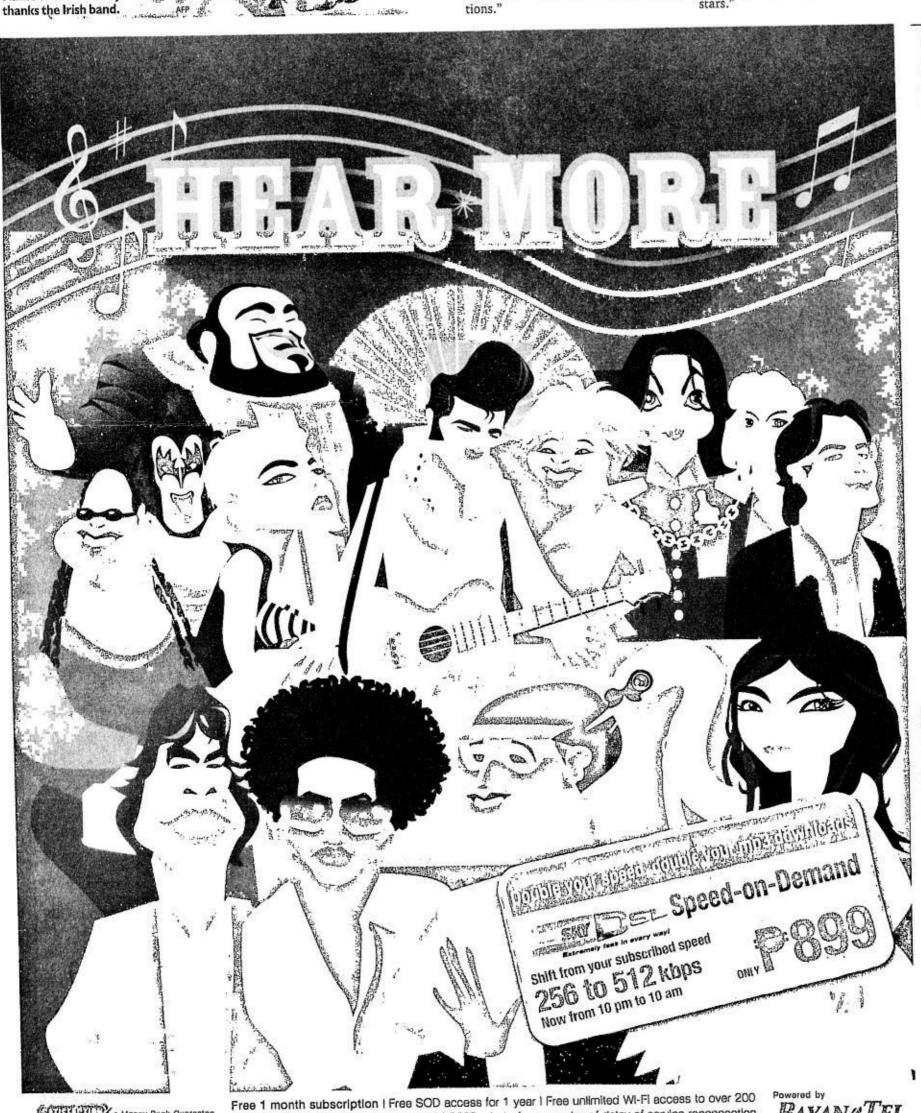
SUNDAY, FERRUARY 12, 2006

He was present at the meeting of the Group of Eight industrialized powers last year when it decided to cancel the debt of the 40 poorest countries, and he also attended the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland last month.

He even showed up last week at the US national prayer breakfast in Washington to urge President George W. Bush to boost US aid to the world's

In one of his many acceptance speeches on Wednesday, Bono compared the excitement of being in a rock band to running away with a circus.

"And there's also the possibility with rock music... that it might just amount to something a little more than entertainment on occasion and that you might be able to communicate some honest feelings," he said. Giles Hewitt,



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## But 'Idol' wins in the ratings

LOS ANGELES-THE POP STAR WANNAbes of "American Idol" outshone the likes of Madonna, U2 and Coldplay at the Grammys on Wednesday night as the hit TV talent contest clobbered music's highest honors in the Nielsen ratings.

"American Idol," airing on the Fox network opposite the first hour of CBS' Grammy Awards telecast, averaged 28 million viewers, compared to 15 million for the Grammys, Nielsen Media Research reported in early figures on Thursday.

The fact that more viewers were caught up in the Hollywood auditions of amateur singers than in the glitz and glamour of the world's hottest-selling recording stars was further testament to the popularity of "Idol," the most watched show on US television.

It also underscored the continuing ratings decline of the Grammys and other entertainment awards shows in recent years.

The three-and-a-half-hour Grammy telecast as a whole drew 17 million viewers, down nearly 2 million from last year and the smallest audience for the show in at least 11 years, Nielsen said.

Among performers taking the Grammy stage during the first hour of Wednesday's broadcast were Madonna, who opened the show, British rockers Coldplay and R&B singer John Legend and who was named Best New Artist.

The first artist presented with an award on the Grammy telecast was Kelly Clarkson, who got her big break as the inaugural "American Idol" champion but neglected to mention in her acceptance speech the Fox show that made her fa-Steve Gorman, Reuters

Text us your feedback:

FRTRINMER inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Journalists first, employees second

By Nini Valera

ARIA RESSA, ABS-CBN News chief, said on Wednes-, day she made it clear to the news staff that they were journalists first, and ABS-CBN employees second.

Ressa's team was the first to arrive at the scene of the "Wowowee" stampede on Saturday at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City.

The former CNN correspondent for Southeast Asia said in an exclusive interview with INQUIRER Entertainment:

"I told everybody to pretend that they were working for someone else-GMA-7 or Reuters or CNN-oth-

We are journalists first and foremost. We want to lead the story, the investigation. I told the staff (during a general assembly after the stampede) to ask hard questions."

#### Critical

even expanded "TV Patrol" that night."

er than ABS-CBN in covering this story. news gathering, and Luchi Cruz-Valdez, head of current affairs, the next day, Ressa said, and they "made the delineation" together. Essentially, this meant to "forget corporate and what they have

Ressa said she was certain that televiewers would quickly switch to another channel if they thought the ABS-CBN new coverage was biased.

Villa noted that the news organization of ABS-CBN is routinely accused of protecting the interests of its owners, the Lopezes.

"But we ... run the newsroom the best way we can as journalists," she said. "That's why we (herself, Ressa and Cruz-Valdez) are called the three witches."

In fact, Villa was sure more people were watching ABS-CBN's coverage of the stampede "to see how we're han-

They took it as an opportunity to

"show our credibility," she said. Even it's ABS-CBN that's in a spot, Ressa stressed, "the news will always say everything.



SUNDAY, FEBRU

GRETCHEN Malalad, AWOL from the Air Force

## 'Housemate' in big trouble

By Joselle dR Badilla PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY-Looks like "Pinoy Big Brother" celebrity housemate Gretchen Malalad is in big trouble. She may lose her job in the military because she failed to ask permission from her superiors before entering the contest.

Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla, Philippine Air Force (PAF) spokesperson, told the INQUIR-ER by phone that Malalad, who holds the rank of Airwoman Second Class (AW2C), was declared absent without leave (AWOL) on Thursday.

Malalad's job is unknown to many. Most fans know her only as the gold medalist in karatedo during the 23rd Southeast Asian games. Her PBB housemates have no clue.

Padilla said Malalad was already in trouble as early as January, when she stopped reporting for work at the Air Force Service Support Group (AFSSG) in Villamor Air Base.

She made things worse by joining PBB, he said.

#### Surprise!

Malalad's superiors and colleagues didn't know what she was up to, Padilla said, until they saw her on TV. "After discussing it, Lt. Col. Alejandro Camagay, commander of the Air Force Service Support Group, and I declared her AWOL.

If Malalad fails to report in the next few days, he added, she will be penalized. Soldiers who go AWOL are normally kicked out: some face administrative charges.

Padilla said Malalad, 26, also failed to report for Basic Military Training, which all soldiers are required to undergo.

The first cycle of the three-month training started Thursday at the Fernando Air Base in Lipa City, Batangas.

A few of Malalad's colleagues pointed out that her joining PBB violated "every PAF rule." Plus, they said, her "very long hair" runs contrary to the requirement of short hair for soldiers. Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

## 'Not a stunt': Jessa's sick

By Marinel R. Cruz

SINGER-ACTRESS JESSA Zaragoza, prohibited by doctors from doing any physical activity due to esophagitis, or inflammation of the esophagus, decided to cancel her Valentine concert with husband Dingdong Avanzado.

In a press statement sent to Inquirer Entertainment, Dingdong said: "We cannot compromise Jessa's health. Our doctors advised us that Jessa's current condition makes it difficult for her to handle any form of physical activity ... esophagitis makes it impossible for her to sing.'

According to Chuck Gomez, Jessa's friend and publicist, the singer-actress is scheduled for a biopsy procedure this week. Jessa was taken to the Cardinal Santos Hospital in San Juan on Feb. 7 after she complained of difficulty in swallowing.

On Feb. 8, after performing an endoscopy procedure, Jessa's doctor announced that the singer-actress was suffering from internal bleeding. "Her doctor said one valve in Jessa's stomach is open when it shouldn't be," explained Gomez.

"Right now, she's being fed intravenously," said Dingdong.

Gomez said the couple finds "very cruel," the rumor that the concert-"That Thing Called Love," set at the Music Museum on Feb. 14-was canceled because of poor ticket sales.

"It's not true that the couple had merely pulled a stunt," said Gomez. "Those who think so should perhaps visit Jessa at the hospital. Her doctors don't want her to move unnecessarily. She can't even talk."

"It saddens us to cancel the show," said Dingdong. "We promise to proceed with it as

soon as Jessa recovers." Gomez said tickets previously sold will definitely be honored on the rescheduled date.

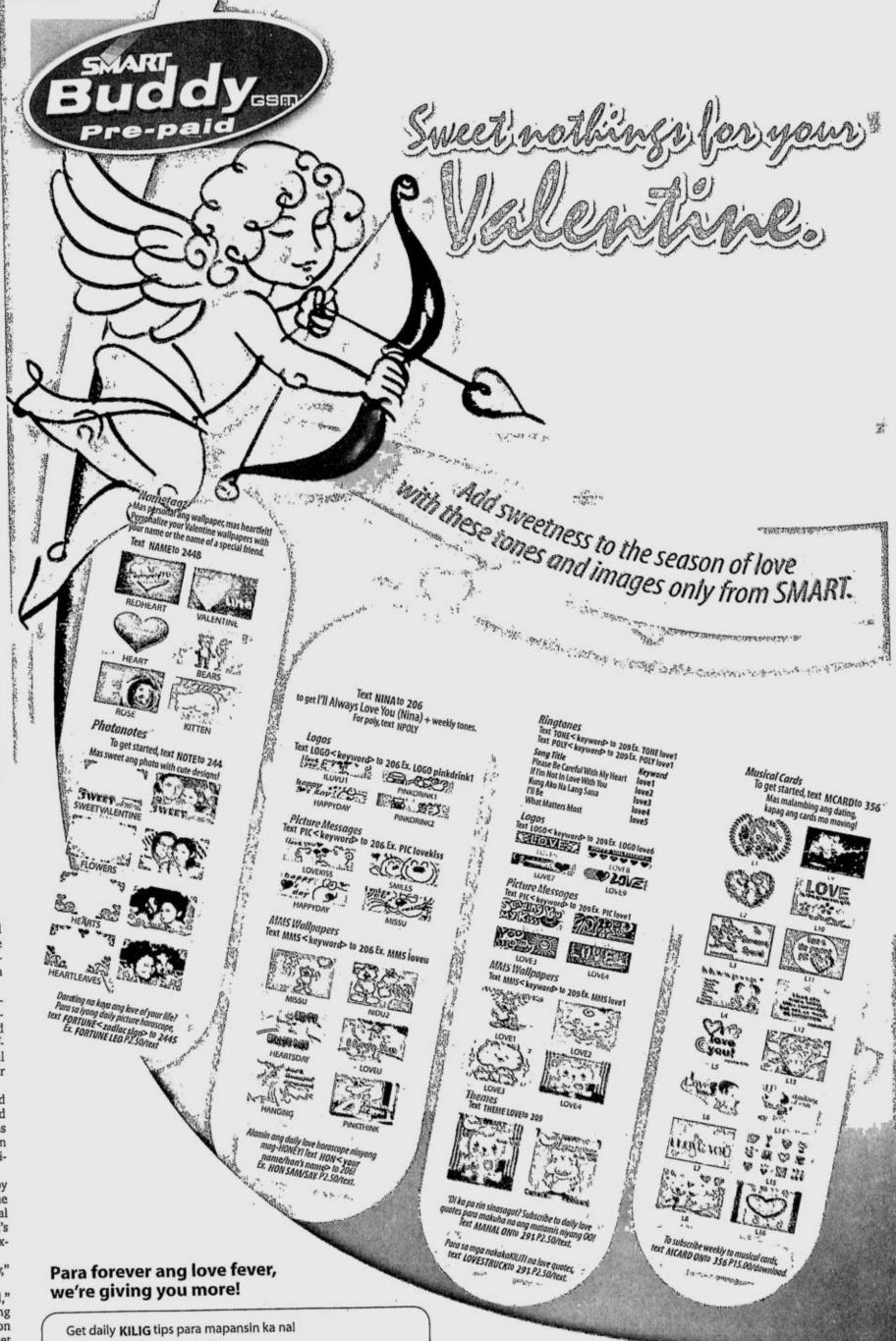
Ressa pointed out that the team had covered similar incidents in the past. "But this was different," she said, "because it involved ABS-CBN. The first 24 hours after the tragedy was critical for the network's news bureau. That day, a big chunk of our broadcast was about it; we

She talked to Charrie Villa, head of

to do."

Villa said she likened the news team to doctors, "who should treat the patient before asking who's going to pay."

She elaborated: "I asked our news editors to be more critical...to find the people who said negative things about ABS-CBN. I wanted those sound bytes."



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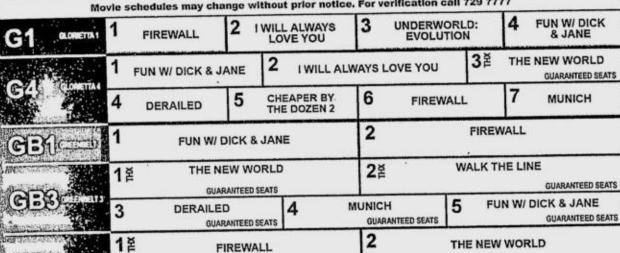
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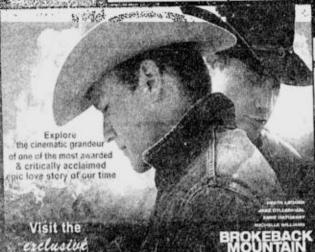


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## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER-VAV -2 ENTERTAINMENDURY 12, 2006

## Dumaguete cinemas close, blames piracy

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R13 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30

By Alex Pal PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY-Silver Cinema, which operates Park and Ever theaters here, has announced that they are closing the two establishments as a direct result of "unabated video

Ed Du, consultant to Silver Cinema president Jimmy Yu, said it was no longer profitable to operate a movie house in Dumaguete. It turns out, he added, that Park and Ever were losing ventures since they opened

in November 2001. There two other movie houses in the city, both owned by Ultravision Cinema.

"The problem with Park," Du said, "is that it shows mostly English films—copies of which have already been sold all over the city by the time they are shown in the theater."

R13 12:30,3:40,6:50,10:00

NEW WORLD

PG13 1:20,4:20,7:20,10:20

He lamented that raids conducted by Optical Media Board have done little to stop the pirates' activities.

"The losses incurred by these illegal traders as a result of one raid, they can quickly recover in one month. If they are raided only twice a year [it's nothing for them]," Du said. Ever theater shows mostly Tagalog films, he said, and so Silver Cinema executives believe it stands a better chance of surviving, if they decide to reopen it later. Du explained, "Tagalog films are not as easily pirated."

All four theaters here closed down in 1997 due to the 30 percent amusement tax imposed by the city government. They reopened five years later under a new managements, with the local government's assurance of a two-year moratorium on said taxes

Even so, Du said, the cinemas contined to

WALK THE LINE PG13

FIRE WALL

FIRE WALL

PG13 11:55,2:25,4:55, 7:25,10:00

"We would have closed in 2004, but for the residents' requests for us to stay open. Now, we have little choice."

Du said other factors that contributed to the losses were the increase in power elrates, and the 12 percent Expanded Value Added Tax.

"The only way for movie houses to become viable here is to open inside a mall. This could happen only once Robinsons opens in Barangay Calindagan," he said.

## DID You KNOW...

REMEMBER William Hung, the unlikely-no, very unlikely-"Idol"? Never mind that he can't sing; he has cut an album with matching video, and now stars in a Chinese movie entitled, "Where Is Mama's Boy."

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THE NEW WORLD 12:05 / 2:55 / 5:45 / 8:35

FUN WITH DICK & JANE 12:15 R2 / 2 05 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35

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## ENTERTAINMENT

# Seems Harrison Ford did this while asleep

NEW YORK-HARRISON FORD COULD HAVE made "Firewall" in his sleep—and at times it directed Bettany in a superior performance feels like he did.

It's the most generic of high-tech kidnap thrillers - not even interesting enough to be guilty-pleasure bad. You'll be forgiven for confusing it with "Ransom" or "Hostage." They're all essentially interchangeable.

Ford growls defiantly at times-and the former Han Solo/Indiana Jones/Jack Ryan can still throw a punch at 63 - but mostly he just looks tired REVIEW and bored as bank executive Jack Stanfield, whose family is held hostage inside their lavish Seattle home.

Paul Bettany is coolly sadistic as the head of the bank robbers, who burst into Jack's house and force him to hack into the security system he designed to help them steal \$100 million.

#### Gag me

But Virginia Madsen-an Oscar nominee just one year ago for her superb supporting work in "Sideways"—is relegated here to playing the dutiful wife in peril. Sample line from the script by Joe Forte: "I already have a hobby. It's taking care of you," she coos to Jack with a kiss at the film's idyllic start. Gag me with a bottle of merlot.

If Ford can throw a punch, Madsen unfortunately can take one. Her character, Beth, 100 minutes. One and a half stars out of and her children (Carly Schroeder and Jim-

my Bennett) are needlessly subjected to an array of abuse. What Bettany's badboy Brit Bill Cox does to the couple's young son, having stalked them for months and knowing that the boy has a peanut allergy, is nothing short of deplorable.

#### Frantic

Beth tries to keep the kids calm by suggesting they think happy thoughts, like remembering the times the family has spent together on their boat. Yes, it is hard to relate to these people.

Meanwhile, Richard Loncraine, who also as a fading tennis star in "Wimbledon," tries to evoke suspense from keystrokes and green blips on a computer screen as Jack, Bill and various bank employees attempt to outfox each other electronically.

The score from Alexandre Desplat ("Birth," "Syriana") doesn't make matters more intense. Especially in a climactic brawl at the end - and really this is

Stunt Fighting 101, complete with broken railings and smashed windows - the music just sounds fran-

#### Indictment

Jack scurries around in the pouring rain (but never carries an umbrella, an uncharacteristic trait for someone who's so detail oriented and lives in Seattle) trying to lose the thugs who are constantly following him. And when he wonders how he's expected to go about his regular routine under constant surveillance and threats, Bill responds evenly, "You do your work, Jack. Chase that American dream."

So in the end, "Firewall" is really an indictment of our nation's greed? There's no way a movie with shootouts and exploding cars has anything quite so philosophical on

"Firewall," a Warner Bros. release, runs four. Christy Lemire, AP



HARRISON Ford in "Firewall"

## Of Indy and iPods

HOW computer savvy are you?

I don't really know that much, you listen to music in MP3 format? about computers. I spend more OP time getting it fixed than I do using it.

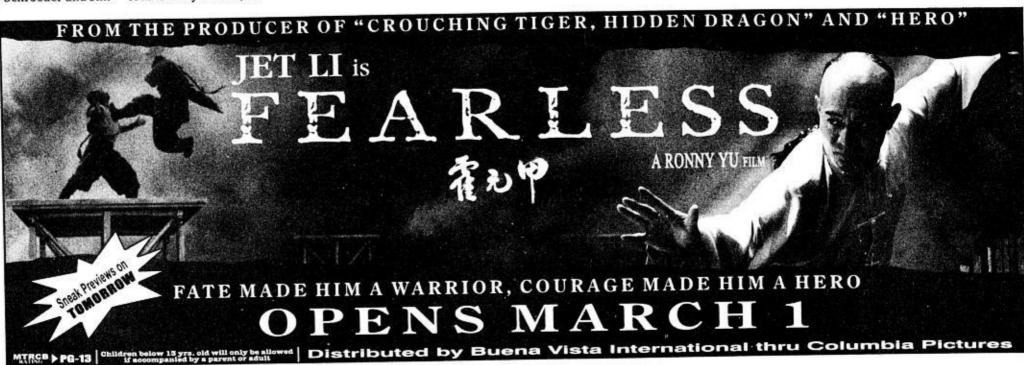
Your character in "Firewall" does clever things with his daughter's MP3 player. Do it be? I have an iPod. I guess that's an

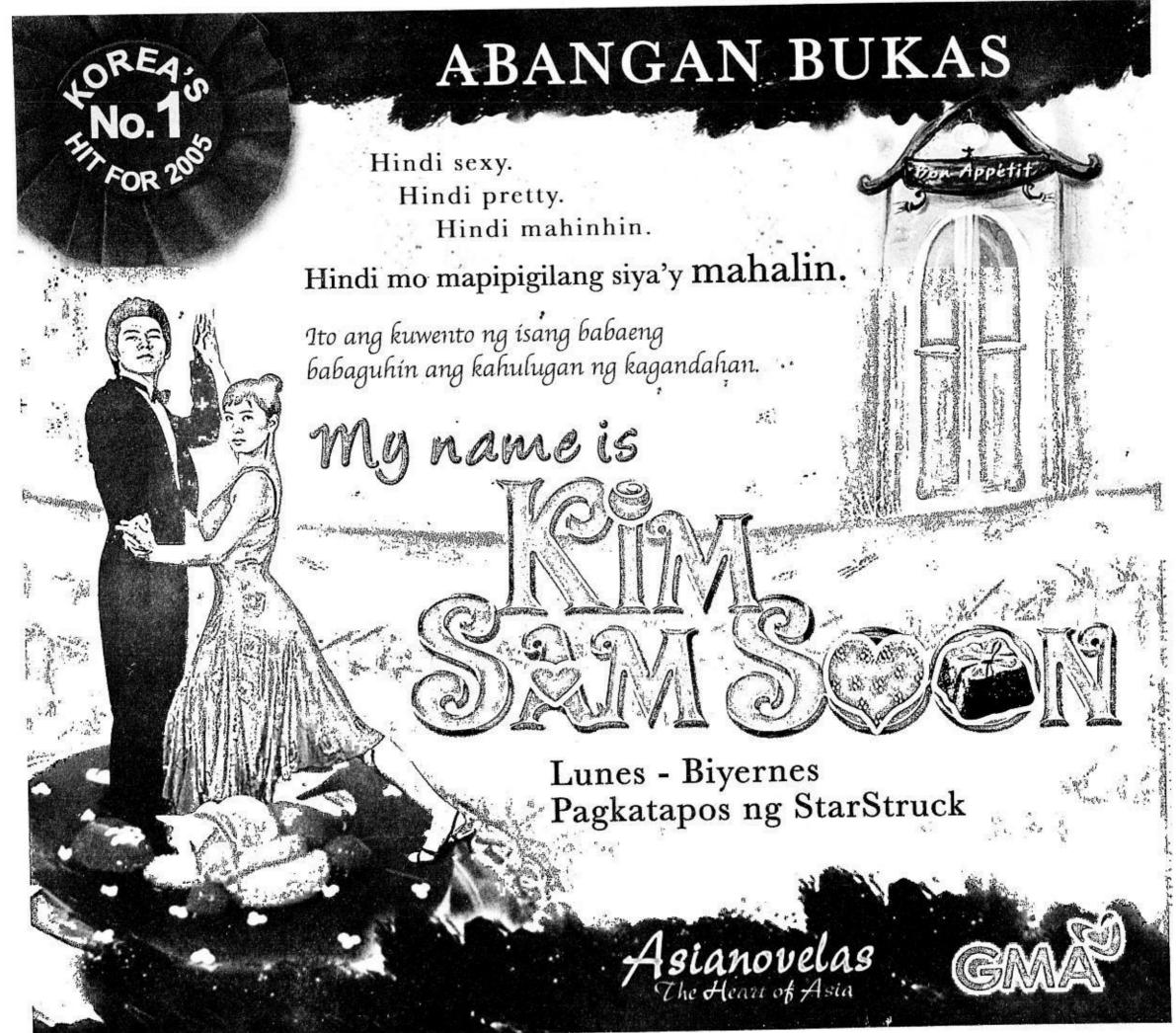
MP3 player, right? TAKE If you have a choice of listening to music on vinyl, CD, satellite radio or some other source, which would

Probably vinyl.

AP: I see you have a multipurpose cell phone and handheld device. Doyou use it for e-mail?

Ford: No. The last thing I want are e. mails to follow me around. David Germain, AP





## ENTERTAINMENT

# 21 biggest nominees in Grammy album

compilation of some of the songs and artists cited several major

The CD features: "Feel Good Inc" by Gorillaz and "Boulevard of Broken Dreams" by Green SPIN CITY Day; "It's Like That" by Mariah Carey and "Fine Line" by Paul McCart-

ney; "Bless the Broken Road" by Fukiko Rascal Flatts, "Devils and Dusts" by Bruce Springsteen and "Ordi-nary People" by John Legend; "Sitting, Waiting, Wishing" by Jack Johnson, "Walk On By" by Seal, "Lonely No More" by Rob Thomas and "From the Bottom of My Heart" by Stevie Wonder.

"Since U Been Gone" by Kelly Clarkson and "Good is Good" by Sheryl Crow; "Speed of Sound" by Coldplay, "Best of You" by Foo

SONY BMG HAS RELEASED THE Fighters, "Rain Fall Down" by 2006 Grammy Nominees CD, a The Rolling Stones and "The "First Impres" Painter" by Neil Young; "E-Pro" Death Cab For Cutie and "Do as producer. You Want To" by Franz Ferdi-

#### Core of Soul

Core of Soul Core of Soul, a trio from Japan composed of vocalist gui-Nakamura,

tarist/bassist Song Rui and keyboardist/synthesizer Keisuke Iisuka, is set to visit the Philippines through Japan Foundation Manila.

The group's new album, "Over The Time, Time Is Over" is a chartbuster in their homeland.

#### First Impression

The Strokes recently released their third album, "First Impres- JOHN Legend

"First Impression" was recorded at the band's Manhattan reby Beck, "Soul Meets Body" by hearsal studio, with David Kahne



Early feedback say it's "the most diverse Strokes record to date... heavier and more gigantic than anything they've done

#### Regine's Covers

Regine Velasquez's "Covers 2" is made up of foreign pop favorites presented in innovative arrangements.

"I picked out songs rarely recorded by other artists," said the Songbird.

"Covers 2" is available on Viva Records tapes and CDs.

#### 2nd from Franz

Scottish group Franz Ferdinand makes a bold statement on their sophomore release titled, "You Could Have It So Much Better," released by Sony BMG Mu-

The album landed the top spot Much Better" has also been



**CORE OF SOUL** 

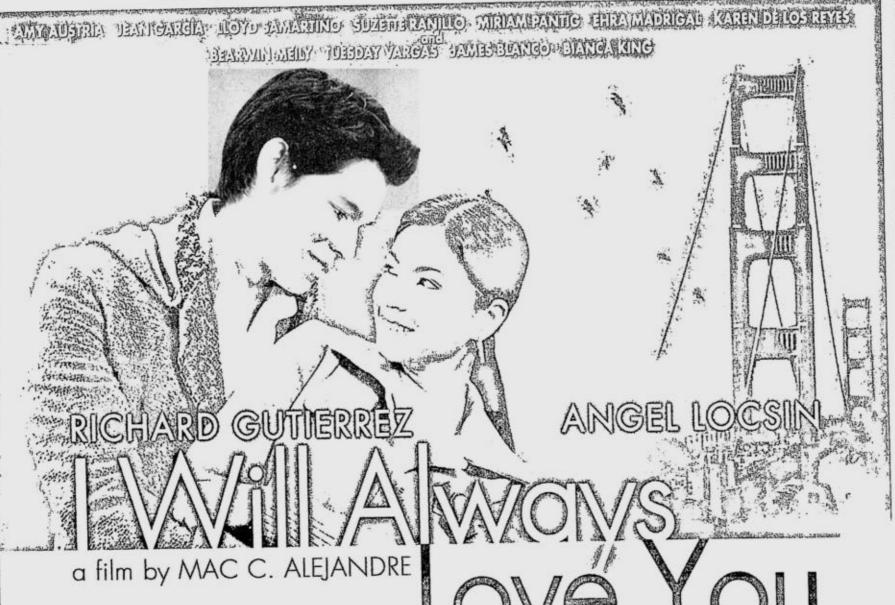
in the UK charts on its first week. Respected publications Time, Rolling Stones and Spine were cited the band's signature dance punk style with such cuts such as Take Me Out," "The Dark of the Matinee," "Darts of Pleasure" and "This Fire."

Locally "You Could Have it So

praised by both avant-garde and mainstream communities. The album spawned the hit "Do You Want To," which peaked at the third slot on rock radio charts. The new single, "The Fallen," is fast becoming another radio and video favorite.

The CD is now available in maior outlets nationwide.

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1. Every purchase of one (1) I Will Always Love You movie ticket in all participating cinemas from February 10 to 19, 2006 entitles you to one (1) raffle ticket. 2. Fill up the coupon with your name, address, telephone number and signature

and drop in drop boxes located at the theater lobby. 3. Raffle ticket/s must be dropped in drop boxes on or before February 19, 2006. 4. Grand Draw will be held on February 23, 2006 at Eat Bulaga between 1:30-2:30PM. All entries will be consolidated at Eat Bulaga, Broadway Centrum

where up for grabs are the following:
One (1) Grand Prize winner - PhP 100,000.00 cash

Three (3) winners of roundtrip tickets to Hong Kong Disneyland for two for four

days-three nights Five (5) winners of Sanyo ST-21G1 53.34 cm (21") TV sets

Five (5) winners of Sanyo SR-S63DW 0.18cum (6 cu. Ft.) refrigerators Direct Cool Five (5) winners of American Heritage AHMO-2032 microwave ovens

Five (5) winners of American Heritage AHWD-93 water dispensers Five (5) winners of IPod Shuffle 512 MB M-9724ZP/A

Ten (10) winners of Orange DVD players

Ten (10) winners of Nokia 1100

Four (4) winners of M2923B 50.8cm (20") Easy Rider bicycles

Three (3) winners of American Home AWT-631P washing machines w/ dryer Two (2) La Germania SL530-00W gas ranges

Winners can only win once. In the event that a name is picked more then once,

he/she will get the price of higher value. Winners will be contacted by phone and/or registered mail.

Present the winning raffle claim stub and one (1) valid ID when claiming the prizes. 8. Prizes should be claimed at the Regal Entertainment, Inc. office at #38 Valencia St.

Quezon City beginning February 24, 2006. The winner must claim his prize within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification. Failure to claim within the allotted time duration forfeits

the winner's right over the prize with prior DTI approval. 9. NMI shall contact winners outside Metro Manila and let them choose whether they want to receive their prize via courier or claim it at the Regal Office. Winners shall

shoulder all shipping costs. 10. All employees of GMA Network Inc., GMA New Media Inc., Regal Entertainment, Inc., participating cinemas and their relatives up to the second degree of affinity or

consanguinity are disqualified from joining. Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0883, series of 2006

#### ROUNDUP



#### Valentine picks

"Family Plan" premieres on Feb. 14 at 9 p.m. on the Hallmark Channel. Tori Spelling plays a workaholic bachelorette who pretends to have a happy family life to impress her new boss. She hires an unemployed actor (Jordan Bridges) to play her husband. Will she pull it off or will she fall for her fake hubby?

Other features this month on Hallmark: "McLeod's Daughters," "Family Law," "Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye," "Judging Amy," "Midsomer Murders," "Doc Martin," "Child of Our Time," and "The Nanny."

#### Cinemadali

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Committee on Cinema, in cooperation with the Film Academy of the Philippines, invites all Filipino filmmakers to join Cinemadali Short Film Competition 2006.

Cinemadali is one of the multimedia activities under "Cinema Luneta," ongoing until Feb. 18. Entries can be shot using any medium. Any genre of fiction or documentary is welcome. Deadline is Feb. 15.

First prize winner will receive P12,000; second place, P8,000; and three runners-up, P3,000 each.

Downloadable entry forms are available at www.pinoyindie.com and www.fapweb.org For inquiries, call the NCCA Committee on Cinema (Lala Hinlo), 527-2209 locs. 508 and 509 or e-mail cinemadali@gmail.com

#### Hermits in Manila

Herman's Hermits, the 1960s' hit group led by vocalist Peter Noone, is due in Manila for two shows-at the Araneta Coliseum on March 17 and at the Manila Hotel on March 18. Titled "Herman's Hermits Starring Peter Noone: Live All Over the World," the two shows will feature the vocalist behind the hits "Mrs. Brown, You Have a Lovely Daughter," "Silhouettes," and "I'm Into Something Good," among others.

#### Trivia book

Film buff Jessie B. Garcia's "A Movie Album Quizbook" was launched at Powerbooks Greenbelt re-

A five-time Palanca winner, Garcia has crafted this 400-page book filled with Pinoy show biz facts and trivia.

Among the stars featured in the book are Rosa del Rosario, Gloria Romero, Sharon Cuneta and Claudine Barretto.

Garcia is a teacher of literature, drama and film in Iloilo City.

#### **Proud Pinoy**

Filipino stand-up comic Gino Cervantes made a name for himself in Singapore in the early 1990s.

In spite of his success in the Lion City, he still wanted to try his luck in his own country. In 2001, he began performing in local bars like Punchline, Music Box and Stars Venue. He's currently a regular at Himalaya Café, Funline, Superpocket Bar and Bigshots Bar.



Gino will have his second show at the Music Museum on Feb. 23, with "Eat Bulaga" mainstay Julla Clarete as special guest.

Gino also dreams of someday making it big in the US. "We are good in English," he says. "We can cross over with our creativity, wit, talent and charm."

#### MTV gem

ERIK Santos sings with Regine Velasquez In "Bakit Ba Iniibig Kita?" composed by Ogle Alcasid. The MTV is directed by Joyce Bernal and produced by Star Records' Joji Mangabat. It was shot by award-winning cinematographer Charlie Peralta.

mean, when you do telemarketing and try to sell something

you don't really care or know

about, isn't it a form of playacting? It's a dream job. If

Jamie Wilson and Miguel Faust-

mann could do it on the side, I'd

Bituin Escalante on success and surviving hard times

By Pocholo Concepcion Contributor

S A SINGER, BITUIN EScalante has proven capable of straddling pop music and theater. As a person she's very opinionated and, though not exactly jobless You have this earthy appeal that these days, recommends to struggling colleagues a field that offers a way through hard times-call centers.

You were gone for a while.

performing with the Apo [Hiking 🍂 plained to the cast that it's about Society].

Have you recorded an album?

I've done two with Viva. The first was a producer's album, meaning it was all laid out for me. For the second one, I was allowed to pick my collaborators and I chose Moy Ortiz (of The Company) and Margot and Edith Gallardo. My friends said it didn't sound

Is that why you're doing theater, because you like playing charac-

like me at all. I was happy with it,

though. I was sort of playing differ-

ent characters in that album.

I was already acting in the drama guild back in college at UP Los

tioned only on a dare, you know, for kicks. That was in 1996 for Celeste Legaspi and Nestor Torre in "Sino Ka Ba, Jose Rizal?" I've since done musical theater, which isn't so far off the mark.

you put to good use in theater.

I've never thought about that. But right now I'm doing a character named Asaka, Mother of the Earth, in a musical called "Once On This I was in the US for three months, Island." Director Bart Guingona ex-

propagating legends, how culture shapes people, although most of us would rather hear that it's also a love story.

What kind of music do you sing in the play?

Happy music, which I thought I didn't like at first. I remember the time I did "Rent" because I also didn't like its music, although I eventually did.

Who are your idols?

I'm a big fan of [the late] Freddie Mercury and Madonna—provocateurs, not afraid to explore. When news broke that Freddie had died, iyakan kaming magkakapatid. Freddie can sing something as stupid as "Fat Bottomed Girls" and



**BITUIN** Escalante

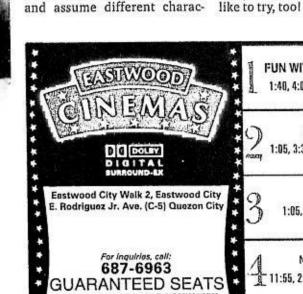
make it sound cool.

Who named you Bituin?

When I was being baptized, the priest asked, "Ano'ng pangalan ng bata?" My lola answered, "Bituin, galing sa langit." Once on TV the emcee asked why I was named Bituin, and I said, "I wanted to be a star as soon as I was born." I was only joking, but the emcee thought I was serious.

Do you always do that?

No, but I have a way of imagining situations when I'm alone. Like, I can talk to myself and assume dif-



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ferent characters... Incidental- ters with nobody seeing you. I

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# Baños. But professionally I audi-

NEIL Young and filmmaker Jonathan Demme AP

## Angst-rock star makes ultimate US family film

LOS ANGELES-NEIL YOUNG, ICONOCLAStic troubadour for decades of counter-culture in the United States, has made the ultimate American family film.

It seems ironic but it is true, says Jonathan Demme, who directed "Neil Young: Heart of Gold," now playing in US theaters.

"Family film" is associated with Disney and Pixar and stuffed toys. Young's song "Needle and the Damage Done" speaks of heroin addiction, and he will forever be linked to

1960s and 1970s anti-war protests. Since then, the 60-year-old has CHEER become a standard-bearer for angst-ridden teen rock-FACTOR ers.

Yet, in "Heart of Gold," the Canadian-born Young and Demme have created what they dub a "dream concert" of songs from his recent "Prairie Wind" album and older "Harvest" and "Harvest Moon" records that conjure spirits of country-and-western music's past and visions of a simple life in the North American heartland.

"It puts me in touch with some deeply felt, old-fashioned, powerful ideas about what America stands for, what the family stands for, what friends stand for," Demme told Reuters in a joint interview with Young.

"Heart of Gold" is a concert, but don't call it a "concert film," its makers said. Young, his band and friends like Emmylou Harris perform 19 songs, each one elaborately staged over two nights in Nashville's Ryman Auditorium 4-first home of the Grand Ole Opry.

It is not a documentary, but Demme and Young said the songs, lyrics and their interpretations onscreen give audiences insight into the man because so much of the music is rooted in Young's personal history.

#### Critics rave

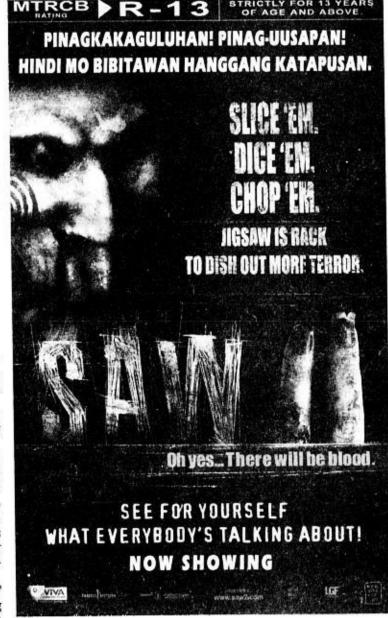
The movie premiered last month at the Sundance Film Festival to a standing ovation, and for the most part, critics are raving about its combination of music and storytelling.

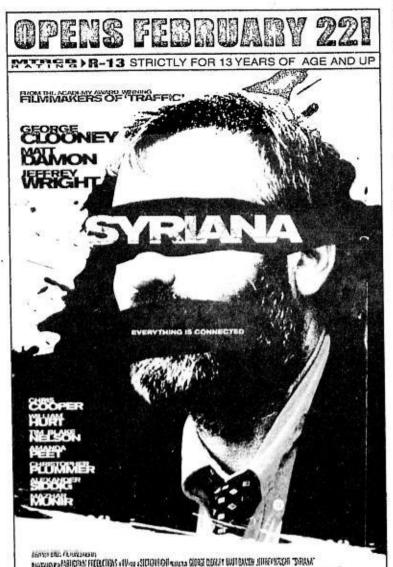
Demme is known as the Oscar-winning director of Hollywood movies like thriller "Silence of the Lambs," but among his works are the Talking Heads' 1984 concert film "Stop Making Sense."

He and Young met when Demme was working on 1993's "Philadelphia," and he asked the musician to write music for the movie.

Young said he likes Demme because the director possesses a positive energy that shows in his work, and he makes people around him feel like winners.

Demme, 61, said he matured listening to Young's music, which he said helped him come to terms with his feelings about the world and Bob Tourtellotte, Reuters his place in it,





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CHOOSE YOUR

So Much in Love

Star: Nyoy Volante and Nina Date: Feb. 14 Place: Edsa Shangri-la

When you're not doing a concert, how do you celebrate Valentine's

Nina: If I have a special someone, I celebrate it with that special person. Otherwise, I celebrate with my family.

Nyoy: Since I started working, I never had a Valentine's Day without work.

What's the most romantic Valentine's Day you've ever experienced?

Nina: This (the concert)

could be it. Nyoy: Still planning it!

What's an ideal Valentine date?

Nina: I'm with the person I love and who loves me.

Nyoy: Time out in Boracay

Who is your fantasy Valentine date?

Nina: Freddie Prinze,

Jr. Nina eh—'la nang iba!

What, for you, is the most romantic love

song? Nina: "Last Time" by Eric Bennet Nyoy: "Naaalala Kal"

Other than you or your co-stars, who would you like to watch this Valentine's Day?

Nina: A foreign artist like, maybe Patti Austin, James Ingram... Nyoy: Boyz II Men

Why should we watch your show? What

can your audience expect? Nina: You will experience falling in love,



lang, NINA and Nyoy Volante

even after the show.

Nyoy: Aside from the great music, the love's gonna be real!

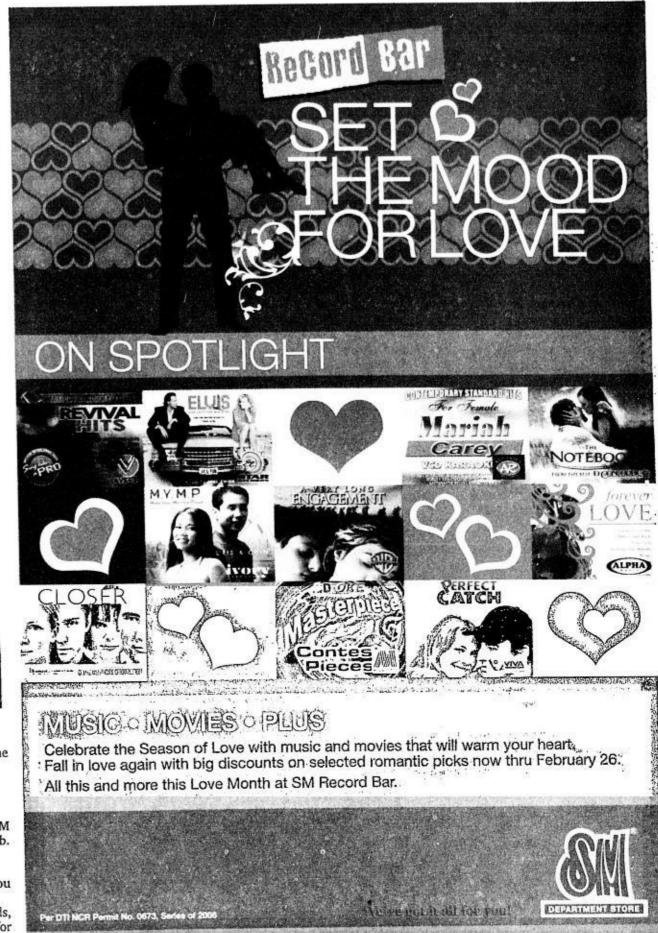
#### My Funny Valentine

Star: Rex Navarrete Venue: SM North Edsa (Feb. 17), SM Southmall (Feb. 18), SM Megamall (Feb. 24), SM Baguio (Feb. 25)

When you're not doing a show, how do you celebrate Valentine's Day?

I usually hang out with other single friends, talking about the wisdom of being single for now.

CHOOSE/A5-2





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## ENTERTAINMENT

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dreams,

Sorry, all my fan-

tasies involve my

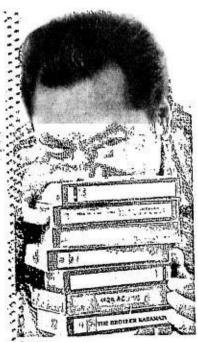
wife. I know it

sounds corny, but

it's true! Even

Nicole Kidman

has begged to



**REX Navarette** 

From page A5-1

What's the most romantic Valentine's Day you ever experienced?

The closest would be flying across the Pacific from San Fran-Cisco to see a girlfriend.

'What's an ideal Valentine's date?

Going to a nice place to dine and listening to some live music ·afterwards—somewhere not crowded; somewhere secluded but not too far.

'Who's your fantasy date? Jennifer Counelly.

What's the most romantic love song?

"So Very Hard to Go" by Tower of Power. It's not very traditional, but it's got a lot of love in it.

If you were not doing a show, who would you watch? My buddy Ogie Alcasid.

Why should we watch your show? What can the audience , expect?

Don't expect me to talk too much about love and being in a relationship is. Been there, done and kitchenette. It took me three

that. I might just blow the cover on love's silliness. Who knows, I might even break up some cou-Bayani San Diego Jr.

#### All About Love

Star: Ladine Roxas Guests: Rizza Navales, Mae Rivera and Triple J.

Musical Director: Elmer Blancaflor

Director: Mr. Apollo of Primeline Venue: Carlos P. Romulo Au-

ditorium, RCBC Plaza

Why should people watch your

show? What can the audience expect?

Ladine: The show hopes to raise funds for the Carmel of St. Joseph monastery in Lucena City and the Carmel of the Incarnate Word monastery in San Pablo City. We will perform lots of songs that will touch the hearts of the audience. I know that most of them will be in their 30s, so most of the songs will be from that generation. One part of the show will be all-kundiman. It is our tribute to the forerunners of Original Pilipino Music. I feel younger people should get to know the kundiman, which is really beautiful and timeless. Only Filipino singers can do justice to these '9 songs.

#### "Classic Romance"

Star: Raymond Lauchengco Date: Feb. 14

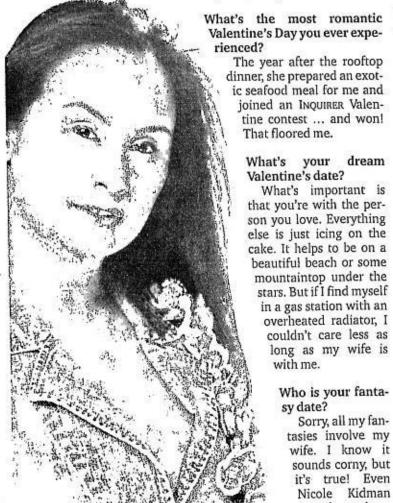
Guests: Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo and Ayen Munji-Laurel Musical director: Jun Lato-

Stage director: Roxanne La-

Venue: Rockwell Tent

When you're not doing a concert, how do you celebrate Valentine's Day?

My wife and I try to outdo each other in preparing a mind-blowing surprise. One year, I prepared a candlelit dinner for her on the rooftop-complete with sofa, rug



**LADINE** Roxas



**RAYMOND Lauchengco** 

no room for anyone else.

What's the most romantic love song?

"What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life" by Michel Legrand.

If you were not doing a show, who would you watch this year?

Andy Williams.

Why should we watch your show? What can the audience expect?

I've always wanted to do a show that was elegant, romantic and very intimate. The world has become a very high-tech place and even concerts are now music video-ish. With this one, I hope to bring back old-world tenderness, sincerity and charm. Bayani San Diego Jr.

#### "This Game Called Love"

Star: Jenine Desiderio Guests: Marco Sison and Jimmy Bondoc

Date: Feb. 14

Venue: New Airport Casino

Musical director: Toti **Fuentes** 

When you're not doing a concert, how do you celebrate Valentine's Day?

This happened only once. I went out on a date with my daughter Janella (now seven). We had dinner at Max Brenner. We both love chocolates! Yum!

What's the most romantic Valentine's Day you ever expe-

One spent in Disneyland in Anaheim, California, with someone special.

What's your dream Valentine's date?

A nicely set dinner for two overlooking a wonderful view; the place smelling heavenly with rose petals; a violinist in a tux

**JENINE** Desiderio

playing romantic music. On my plate would be a poem or a song written by him for me; and I have to really like the person, otherwise it won't mean a thing.

Who is your fantasy date? Colin Farrell or Enrique Iglesias, please!

What's the most romantic love song?

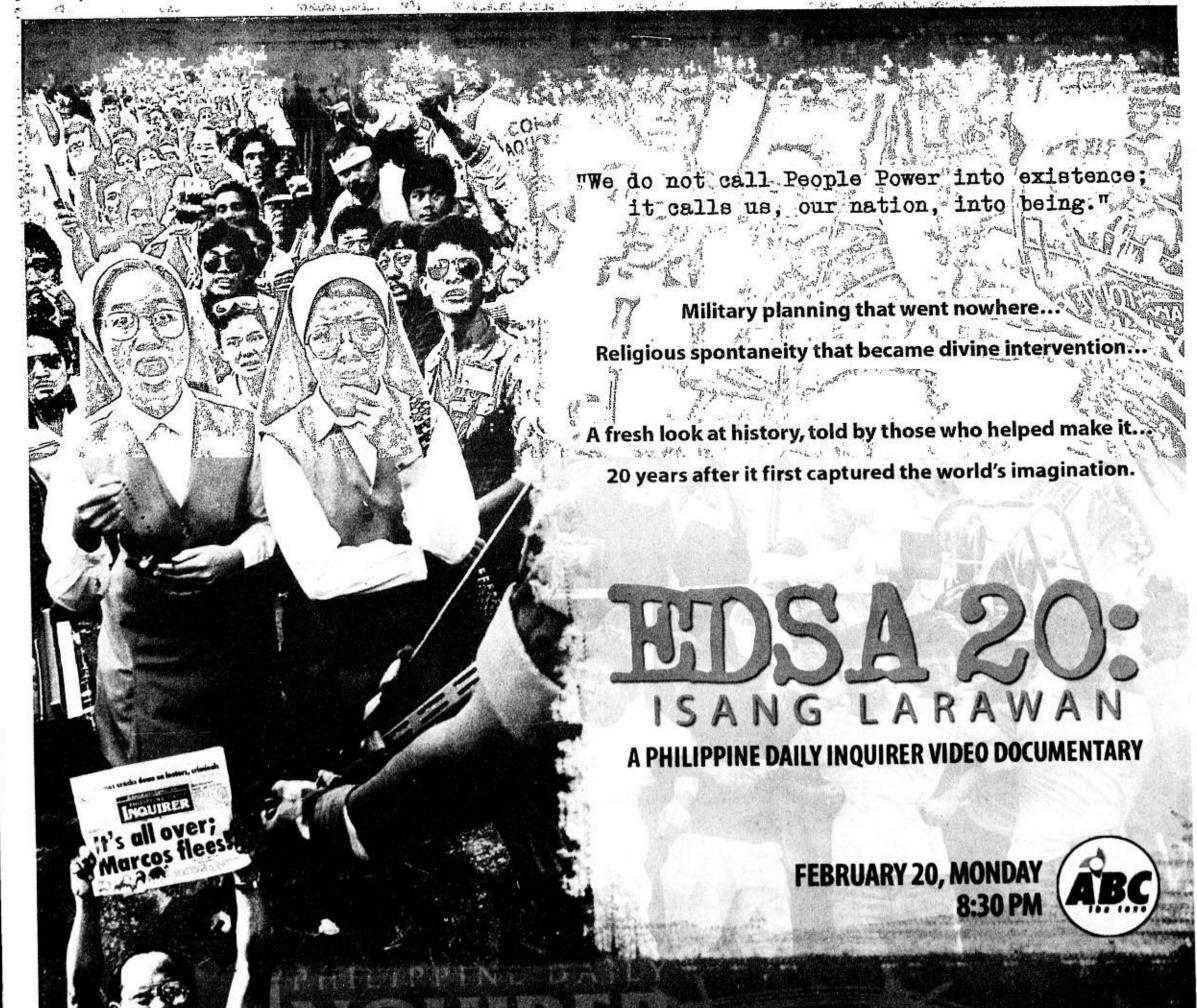
"The Way You Look Tonight" and "Beautiful in My Eyes."

If you were not doing a show, who would you watch this Ogie and Regine's show seems

interestingly different.

Why should we watch your show? What can the audience expect?

Year after year, people see the same artists doing Valentine shows. I will provide a very good alternative. Bayani San Diego Jr.



## ENTERTAINMENT

CHOOSE YOUR TAIGHTING SHOW

From page A5-2 Tonight

"My Mega Valentine" with Megastar Sharon Cuneta at the Araneta Coliseum. Call 911-5555.

Tomorrow

Kalapana at the PICC. Call 891-9999 and 871-7577

"Hearts in Season" with Janet Basco, Ivy Violan, Dulce and Miguel Castro at the Manila Peninsula Rigodon Ballroom

OJ Mariano and Czarina Rosales at Suburbia

9th Avenue at Virgin Café AiAi delas Alas in "Ai-shteru" (Ai-labu) at Klownz Araneta

"Betcha By Golly Love" with Aretha and the Souled Out Band at Merk's Bar

The CompanY at 19 East Music Hall along South Super Highway, Sucat, Parañaque

The Tiongco Brothers and Marri

Nallos at The Frontpage Piano Bar at T.M. Kalaw St., Manila. Call 523-3367.

RJ and Friends at Camp Aguinaldo Theater for a fund-raising concert for Pasay City Streetchildren; 8 p.m. Call 899-3108

Suzy Unas at Manila Pavilion Boulvar Lounge

Groovewerk at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

February 14

SHOW

TIME

Kalapana at the PICC. Call 891-9999 and 871-7577 Andy Williams Livel at the

Araneta Coliseum Rico J. Puno at the Manila Hotel with guests K Brosas and Danita Paner

Rannie Raymundo, Tessa Garcia and the Philharmonic Orchestra at the Hotel Philippine Plaza

"Betcha By Golly Love" with Aretha and the Souled Out Band at Merk's Bar

DK Tijam at Suburbia

Freeway at Virgin Café AiAi delas Alas in "Ai-shteru" (Ai-lab-

u) at Klownz Araneta

The CompanY at Brittany Bay (Sucat) with Beth Martin on the acoustic grand piano

RJ and Friends at the Manila Polo Club; 9 p.m. Call 899-3108

Lance Raymundo at Manila Pavilion Boulvar Lounge; 8:30 p.m. Kearny Street at Tavern on the

Square, Greenbelt 3 Bamboo at Metropolis Star Alabang;

Leggierro Strings at Taste Buds,

Robinsons Place Manila Star In A Million's Lance Onate at Ratsky Tomas Morato

Kalapana at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu. Call 891-9999 and 871-7577 Silk at Suburbia

Side Aat Virgin Café Savannah at Merk's, Greenbelt 3 Boyfriends at RJ Guitar Bar RJ at Discovery Suites' Serendipity

Jeli Mateo at Manila Pavilion Boulvar Lounge

Ntwine at Tavern on the Square,

Greenbelt 3 Human Things at Taste Buds, Robin-

sons Place Manila Star In A Million's Lance Onate and

Randy Santiago at Ratsky Malate

Nyoy Volante and Freeverse at Suburbia

Mocha at Virgin Café

RJ and Friends at L.A. Café Bar and Restaurant for a fund-raising concert for Pasay City Streetchildren; 8 p.m. Call 899-3108

Moments at RJ Guitar Bar Sitti Navarro at Manila Pavilion Boul-

var Lounge Ang4gettables at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3





# SMART's Champions of Innovation and Excellence

The best campus engineering minds battled it out last February 3 and 4 at the Megatrade Hall 2 of SM Megamall as Smart Communications Inc. (SMART) played host to the search for the best wireless services applications developed by student-faculty teams under the SMART Wireless Engineering Education Program (SWEEP).



Reaping the rewards: Three outstanding SMART Schools Training Coordinators receive high-end phones as well as a one year enrollment extension for their respective schools in Microsoft's IT Academy



SMART executives Ramon Fernandez (2nd from left) and Roland Peña (3rd from left) take the lead in opening SWEEP Awards 2006



The SMART 3G Demo Booth draws curious



Free internet surfing at the PLDT Vibe booth



Vyll Roxannie Tinampay accepts her award for winning the PalaECEpan quiz bee

Ateneo de Manila University's "Atlas" emerged as the champion of the 2nd SWEEP Innovation and Excellence Awards, besting nine other finalists out of 57 entries in the country's biggest inter-collegiate wireless applications competition for engineering students.

Led by 5th year Electronics and Communications Engineering (ECE) student Benjamin Intal and members Alfonzo Sabado, Marvin Go, Antonio Nuñez and Angela Aninao, the winning team developed an application that provides motorists and commuters with directions and an MMS map along with helpful information.

"I felt proud because I believed our team had a chance to win," said Intal. "SMART SWEEP encourages schools and ECE students to excel in their respective fields," he added. For their innovation and excellence, the champions walked away with the \$300,000 grand prize and trophy.

Second place went to Xavier University Cagayan de Oro

for their "Home Integration System" developed by Michael Chaves and Jeffrey Duria. The "SMART Calendar" entry, developed by Rod Michael P. Coronel, Cathleen Anne S. Paras and Ella C. Yap of Ateneo de Manila University won third place.

The second and third placers received \$200,000 and P100,000 respectively. Schools of the winning teams will be receiving the corresponding amount of cash prizes in the

form of grants. Meanwhile, Xavier University's Vyll Roxannie Tinampay triumphed as the PalaECEpan quiz bee champion, beating representatives from 33 SWEEP schools. Tinampay, the lone female finalist, bagged ₱30,000 in cash plus a high-end mobile phone.

SWEEP is the industry-academe partnership program of SMART that aims to help raise the level of engineering education, particularly in the field of ECE. The SWEEP Awards

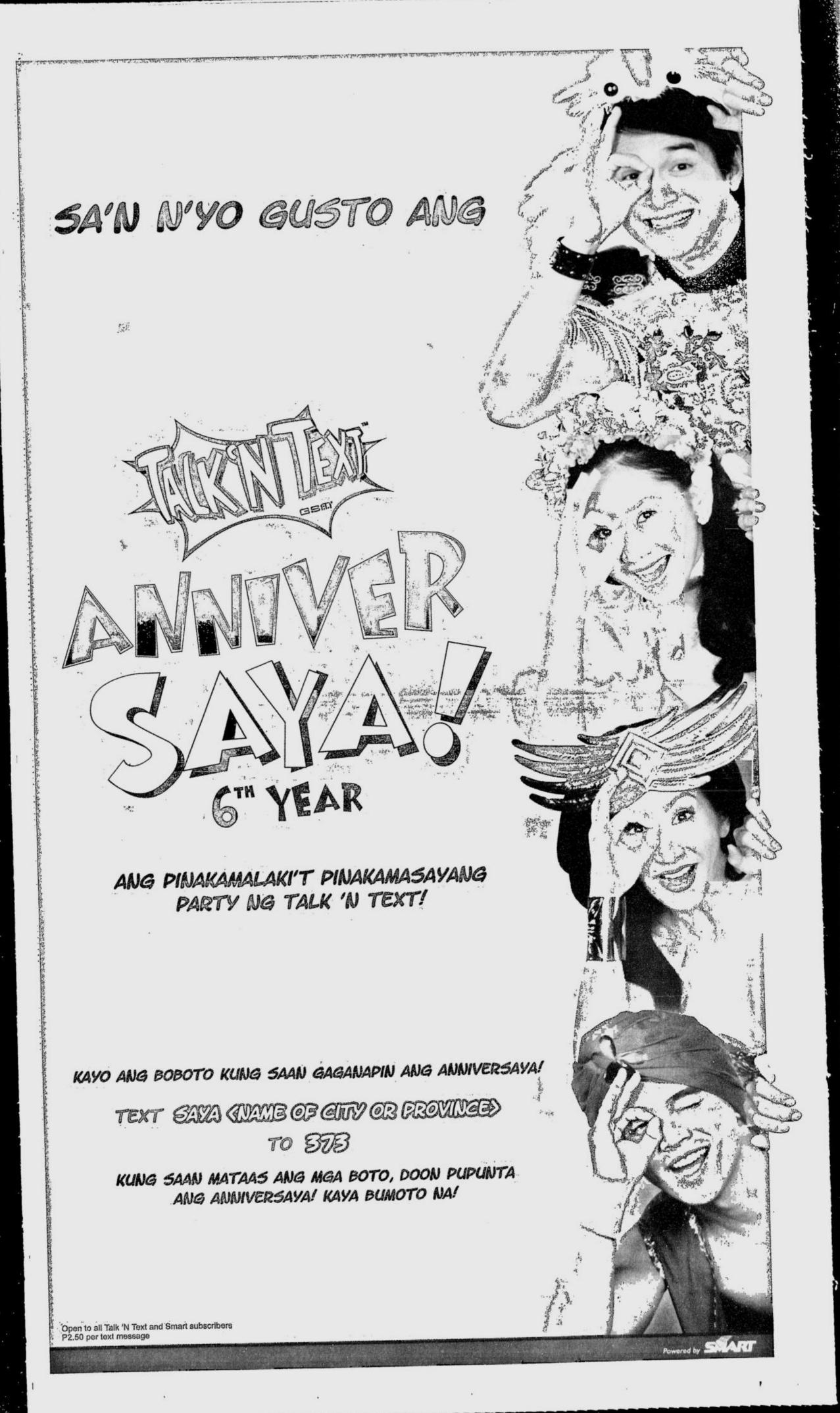
is open to all partner schools under SWEEP in recognition of the ingenuity and creativity of students and faculty mentors in developing wireless services applications that will benefit the school and the community it serves.

"This is our way of giving budding engineering students an opportunity to shine by recognizing their technological know-how and creativity." said Rolando G. Peña, SMART networks services division head.

This year's event featured various activities for students that included the PLDT group job fair, a SMART IT recruitment event, SMART 3G demos, as well as seminars, interactive booths, and a mini-concert featuring popular bands Spongecola and Kjwan.







E-mail: pr\_business@inquirer.com.ph

# Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

# ber industry bounces back

The good prospect for rubber trading in the international market has driven the rebirth of the industry in the country.

Aiming to optimize gains in trading their produce amid this highly favorable market condition, around 400 small rubber planters in Ipil, Zamboanga del Sur, have banded together into a marketing association.

So far, the boldest local development program anchored on the market potentials of the crop is that of North Cotabato.

Banking on an ambitious 10-year rubber development program to transform the wartorn and rebel-infested province "from battlefields to fields of economic productivity," it



THE CROP is helping indigenous tribes earn a better living.

was hoped that areas planted to rubber would expand to at least one million hectares with 500 million trees.

With the program, the industry is expected to turn in over P100 billion in foreign exchange earnings, generate 500,000 more jobs and contribute P2.5 billion pesos in local taxes.

#### **Cultivation history**

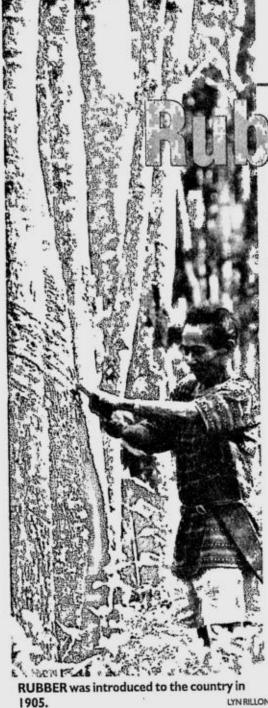
A brief prepared by the Philippine Rubber Board Inc. (PRBI), said the crop was introduced into the country by the Menzi Agricultural Corp. in Basilan in 1905, at about the same time Malaysia and Indonesia began their rubber industry.

Commercial production in the Menzi farm began in 1914. By 1915, another big plantation, the Rio Grande Rubber Estate, was established in Kabacan, Cotabato.

Later, the entry of more multinational corporations in large-scale plantation develop ment led to increased cultivation of rubber throughout Mindanao particularly in Basilan, Zamboanga del Sur and Cotabato provinces.

Aided by technicians of big plantations, local planters in smaller farms also cultivated

To cater to the demand for training in rubber planting techniques, the then Mindanao



By Ryan D. Rosauro

PDI Mindanao Bureau

EVERY TUESDAY, THE HINTERLAND VILLAGES of RT Lim town in Zamboanga Sibugay come to life. During this day, traders round up rubber farmers to buy their produce.

Bringing with them large hauling trucks, the traders take in as much as the rubber planters can offer for sale.

The inflow of money from these transactions has perked up the economy of the villages and has also encouraged more members of the indigenous Subanen tribe and other upland farmers to cultivate rubber to improve their lot.

Indeed, after nearly becoming an insignificant produce in terms of development contribution due to policy neglect, rubber has bounced back to provide hope of economic advancement to people who have long been confined to poverty.

# Key to peace in Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—RUBBER-GROWING MAY just be the key to peace, government officials in North Cotabato believe.

In fact, provincial officials led by Gov. Emmanuel Piñol have been campaigning about rubber-growing, not only in the province but other areas as well.

Natural rubber, Piñol says, is one major crop that has bright prospects to uplift the living condition of the country's impoverished sector.

A kilo of latex (rubber sap) fetches about P36 and "possibly would rise due to its high demand in the world market."

Piñol said the bright hope from rubber planting should even entice communist and Moro rebels to drop their weapons and go into farming.

"Instead of engaging government troops in a firefight, the New People's Army and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and their allied forces may participate in the rubber production business," he says.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, says Piñol's invitation was good and that the idea would be raised and discussed in his meeting with the rebel hierarchy.

Hoping that a government-MILF peace agreement could be signed this year, Kabalu says the rubber business proposition may be carried out by the front in the so-called Moro ancestral domain.

The NPA leadership has yet to comment on the provincial government's invitation.

Agriculture Sec. Domingo Panganiban initially released P5 million in funds for rubber and named North Cotabato as the lead province of the project that involved cultivation of planting materials.

North Cotabato Vice Gov. Jesus Sacdalan has also called on other sectors of the society to take advantage of the booming rubber industry.

Sacdalan says the program accepts housewives, widows and children whether in or out of school.

"Every seedling that they produce will earn

them P4," he says,
Farmers, including rebels who want to
plant rubber, may get the seedlings free under the five-year "plant now pay later plan"
of the provincial government according to
Sacdalan.

cdalan. Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau



## Sunday BIZ

# Thank God, there's 'wagwag

BAGUIO CITY—ROMMEL OLPIN-

do is an Ibaloi waiter who profusely thanks the Almighty "for inventing wagwag first before He created the Value Added Tax." This 25-year-old computer

programming student says he managed to buy his two-yearold son Bryce a P5 knitted hat from a pile of imported secondhand clothes that sell for a bargain here, when government imposed an additional 2percent tax to the 10-percent expanded VAT on Feb. 1.

"Wagwag," the Baguio street reference for this largely legitimized, if still underground, trade, helped local families economize before, but escalating commodity prices that are developing out of two successive VAT increases already makes shopping for

dle-income earners, he says.

no hold on his lifestyle, as he waits tables for an old Chinese Filipino restaurant at the heart of the summer capital.

He traces his roots to Barangay Dalupirip, a village in the mining town of Itogon, which fought the construction of a large dam a few years ago.

Like most young workers, Olpindo occupies a room inside his parents' house, which allows him to live comfortably enough with a monthly take home pay of P5,000 each month, and maybe P606 in tips.

But most of his earnings pay for his small household's food, and two large cans of milk supplement for Bryce.

The rest pays for his transportation and monthly installments for a 21-inch television set.

Olpindo still believes VAT has small dents in his spending cycle, which may seem negligible at first glance.

The restaurant requires Olpindo to break his daily shifts between opening at 8 a.m. and working to 1:30 p.m. and resuming work at 6 p.m. to close the diner at 10 p.m.

"This means four jeepney rides [worth P32 each day] for me to and from [San Carlos Heights], which is too far to walk [because it is a 20 minute ride from downtown Baguio on hours when traffic has picked up speed]," Olpindo says. "The first VAT raised my jeepney fare from P7.00 to P8.00. Whenever the restaurant asks us to work overtime, I usually decide to sleep there and wait for the morning so I can save on cab fare," he says.

The savings helped Olpindo ac-

vored rice variety, which are hurt, Olpindo says. shipped from Pangasinan and Cagayan. Olpindo says 5 kilos of sinandomeng used to cost him only P100. It now costs him

"Market food is not much of a problem because prices of vegetables [shipped from nearby La Trinidad town in Benguet] did not change when the first VAT was imposed, although the quality has gone down considerably,"

San Carlos Heights is one of the few villages in the city, which is not serviced by the Baguio Water District, so Olpindo spends P275 every other week on water deliveries to fill up 13 water containers at home. VAT compelled the water delivery service to hike up the rate by P1, he says.

Summed up, however, these

Rubber industry bounces back

Olpindo says VAT has made cept the P1 increase to his fa- small increases in food prices will

Liquid petroleum gasoline now costs him P590 a tank, and "the new increase will definitely pull that price up some more," he says.

"VAT worries me not because of what it does to my expenses, but because of what it does to my friends. Many of my classmates graduated but have not yet found jobs like I have. [President Macapagal-Arroyo] is ready to make the ultimate sacrifice with VAT to salvage the economy because she does not see how people like us are affected," he says.

That gripe aside, Olpindo says Bryce remains invulnerable to VAT-

The child is "the first grand son" of his family, so Bryce thrives on gifts to keep his wardrobe and playpen always freshly stocked; he explains. Vincent Cabreza; PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



RUBBER and budwood nursery garden in North Cotabato

#### From page B1

Institute of Technology (MIT) in Kabacan offered short courses on rubber beginning in 1958. Loan financing, then offered by the Development Bank of the Philippines and the Philippine National Bank, largely fueled the

growth of small farms. Today, the provinces of Cotabato, Zamboanga Sibugay and Basilan are the country's major rubber producers.

#### Policy issues

Despite its longevity, the industry's potentials for bringing about national economic development have not been fully taken advantage of according to Dr. Eugenio Alcala, PRBI executive director.

Alcala, vice president for research of the University of Southern Mindanao (the former MIT), explained that the problem lies with low investments for rubber research and development (R&D).

He says the government, the largest source of funds for such purpose, spends the bulk of its agricultural budget for rice and corn.

This is premised on the country's dogged effort in achieving food security.

"There were even times when there was no research budget for rubber," Alcala laments, adding that there is a need to reevaluate the nation's agricultural policy and appreciate the fact that if people have purchasing power through cultivating other highly marketable crops, they can be assured of constant supply of food on their table.

"R&D underpins the growth of any industry," he says.

For those who pursued rubber cultivation despite the sad fact, replacing old trees and expanding the plantations were snagged by the absence of financing schemes after traditional sources suspended their loan window for the industry according to PRBI.

This has discouraged many planters over the years who shifted to other crops.

Today, the country has only about 100,000 hectares of rubber lands, 95 percent of which are considered small-scale plantations.

Of these, only 80 percent are productive, with 15 percent containing still immature trees. Ninety eight percent of the rubber farmers produce cuplumps, the rawest form of natural rubber.

On the other hand, neighboring Asian countries are making headway in industry de-

Malaysia currently has 1.2 million ha and Indonesia 3.5 million ha. Vietnam, which is a bit late in rubber cultivation, now has 500,000 ha, from 300,000 ha just a few years back.

While acknowledging the lost opportunity, Alcala, however, continues to be optimistic the country can still catch up given a policy environment conducive to industry growth.

In a paper presented before a rubber conference in Davao City in November last year, Dr. Hidde Smit, secretary-general of the London-based International Rubber Study Group, said demand for natural rubber is expected to rise in the next 15 years.

Smit added that this trend will drive a projected rise in rubber price by over 50 percent in the next few years.

Alcala says global demand was being stimulated by growth of the automobile industry of China, which currently corners 30 percent of the 8.9 million metric tons of world production of dry rubber.

This bright prospect has already been felt by rubber farmers with a kilo of cuplump now priced at P36.

An eight-year-old tree, according to Alcala, can generate half a kilo of cuplump per month, and productivity goes up as the tree matures. A hectare of rubber farm can contain 500 trees.

Jack Sandique, who manages a family rubber estate in Makilala, Cotabato, says a 1.2-ha farm containing 600 mature trees yields 30 kilos cup lump a day.

At the current price, that would be more than enough for a family of five. Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau



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## Gov't continues rice program despite failures

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THEY SAY MOST SUCCESSES ARE BUILT ON multitudes of failure. This is why Malacañang is pushing through with its multimillion-peso hybrid rice program even though the miracle crop bankrolled by the ill-gotten Marcos wealth has repeatedly failed to live up to its hype of making

the Philippines self-sufficient in rice.
"If we do that (discontinue the hybrid rice program), there will be no rice to eat as far as the agriculture sector is concerned," said Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban, in a briefing in Malacañang.

Panganiban said the government was sticking to its strategy of buying hybrid rice varieties from private suppliers (led by SL Agritech of Sterling Paper owner Henry Lim Bon Liong) and marketing them to farmers at a discount even though this has not yielded the desired results since 2001 when the President launched with much fanfare the hybrid rice commercial program.

"Hybrid is the only way we can have a harvest of 5.5 tons because inbred palay can only yield 3 tons. We just to have improve on our quality," Panganiban said.

Experts and advocacy groups have long pointed out the failure of the hybrid rice program to meet its goal of boosting rice harvest and mak-ing the Philippines close to 100-percent sufficient in rice by 2004. (Panganiban said it was former Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo and not Ms Arroyo who projected the country's self-sufficiency last year when we imported 1.8 million metric tons.)

The Rice Watch and Action Network (R1) said that "the hybrid rice varieties have not shown significant and consis-

tent yield advantage over inbred rice varieties across the country."

Based on the experience of its users, hybrid rice generated minimal gains over inbred rice in harvest while farmers spent more for labor, fertilizer and pesticides for the miracle seed.

Only Nueva Ecija showed a modest return on investment among the areas that used hybrid rice and experts attributed this to its proximity to farm conditions in sub-tropical countries like Vietnam and India where hybrid has been thriving.

Dr. Cristina David of the Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS) made a study showing a high dropout rate or the number of farmers that abandon the hybrid after one season at 68 percent to 78 percent per province.

Panganiban claimed that the hybrid rice program had only P454 million a year budget but the Southeast Asian Regional Institute for Community Empowerment placed the budget at P1.6 billion for this year and P2.5 billion

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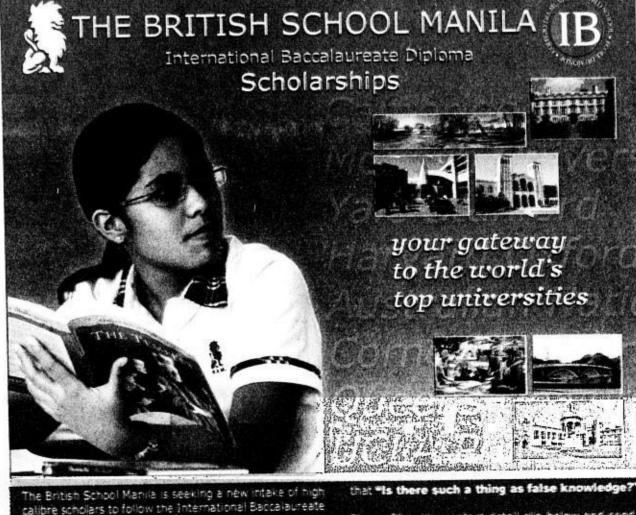
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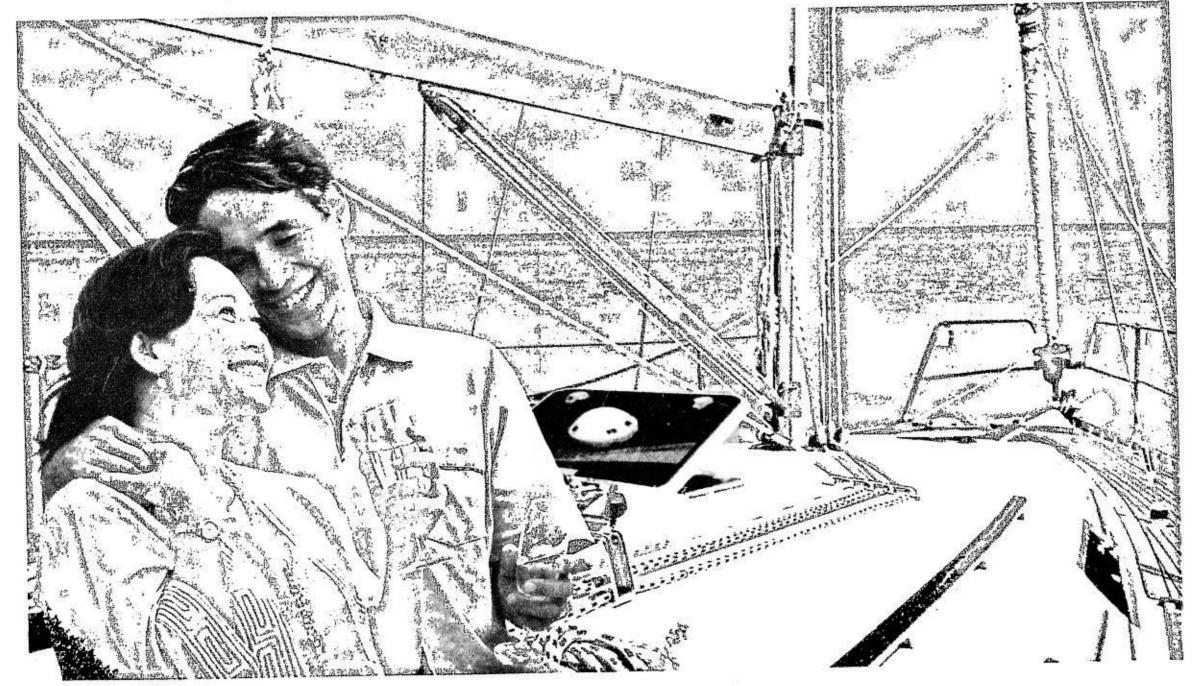
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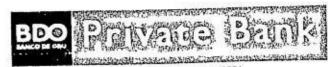
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1.469.000 73, \* Ind1 Lot w/ W Houses

1,703,000 74. \*Ind'l.Lot w/ W'Hse/ Offc.

1,201,000 75. \*Commi Lot w/ 6 sty Bldg

1,366,000 76, \*Ind'l Lot w/ bldgs,Old Nati

1,465,000 78. Lot / Lots 1-L-3-H-3-B-1 &

1,538,000 79, Lot / Lot 1-L-3-H-3-B-3,

TFA 2 797 (on lease)

MISAMIS ORIENTAL

Hi-way, Luz Banzon, Jasaan

1,546,000 DAVAO CITY (nr. Magsaysay Park) MIN BID

3-D-2-C & 1-L-3-D-1-D,

P. Bangoy / TLA 1,976

1,435,000 77. \*Lot / Lots 1-L-3-B-2, 1-L- 27,230,000

1-L-3-H-3-B-2, J Luna / TLA 544

Juan Luna / TLA 271 (w/ occupants)

SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL

Ave, Ledislawa Gorden Vill / TLA 539

Garden VIII, Pob. (w/ occupant)

65,000 61. Agri/ Lot-410-E-1/LA 12,000 5,520,000

65,000 64. Agri/ Lot-410-E-4/LA 12,000 5,520,000

65,000 PAGADIAN CITY - Lineza MIN BID

65. Lot-194-B-2-1-8-C-9 (B) / LA 246

BUKIDNON

(Lingi-on, Manolo Fortich)

COMMERCIAL

Lots 4761 & 4768 Cebu South Rd

TLA 3,109/TFA 2,499 (on lease)

Lots 4759, Cebu South Road

LA 2 688/TFA 2 186 (On lease)

L-7624-C -1-B & 7624 C-3, Colon

Pahma Central Sambag / LA 660 70

TLA 5 464/TFA 1 589/beside Pilipinas Kaol

CEBU CITY - Port Centre | MIN BID

DAVAO CITY - Poblacion | MIN BID

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302,000

333,000

9,544,000

8,000,000

5.550.000

105,000

128,000

MIN BID

395,000

292,000

410,000

431,000

527,000

15.405.000

21,600,000

18,400,000

76,005,000

MIN BID

9,257,000

4.004.000

2.000,000

COMML/RESDL

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PARANAQUE

HSE W/ 143 SQ.M. LOT 4 SALE

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0917-8583502

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MIN BID

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80,000

80.000

80,000

65,000

65,000

65,000

65,000

721,000

479,000

455,000

MIN BID

1,389,000

1,412,000

1,683,000

1,179,000

1,339,000

1,167,000

1,217,000

1,163,000

1.351.000

1,477,000

1,504,000

1,377,000

1,416,000

1,439,000

1,563,000

Medel / Woodstock Quest Subd, Tangub 55. Lot / Lots 20 & 6-D Paseo (near Bacolod Bel-Air Subdivision) Annette / TLA 1,158 80,000 Lot 1 Blk 13 / LA 72 Busay - (near Jardin De Busay) Lot 2 Blk 13 / LA 72 80,000 80,000 56, Lot / L 2 C 2 / LA 393 Lot 13 Blk 13 / LA 72 80,000 57. Lot / L 2 C 3 / LA 393 ·4. Lot 14 Blk 13 / LA 72 GENERAL SANTOS CITY MIN BID 80,000 Lot 23 Blk 13 / LA 72 58. Lot-1347-B-4, Cabe Subd. 80.000

Lot 24 Blk 13 / LA 72 Lot 25 Blk 13 / LA 72 Lot 26 Blk 13 / LA 72 9. Lot 37 Blk 13 / LA 72 10. Lot 38 Blk 13 / LA 72 11. Lot 3 Blk 13 / LA 72 12. Lot 5 Blk 13 / LA 72 13. Lot 43 Blk 13 / LA 72 14. Lot 44 Blk 13 / LA 72 45. Lot 45 Blk 13 / LA 72

16. Lot 46 Blk 13 / LA 72 .17. Lot 63 Blk 13 / LA 72 18. Lot 64 Blk 13 / LA 72 19. Lot 65 Blk 13 / LA 72 20. Lot 66 Blk 13 / LA 72 La Herencia Negrense Subd, Mandalagan 21. Lots / L-285 B-8 / TLA 585 -22. Lot / L-11 B-12 / LA 655 23. Lot / L-29 B-27 / LA 435 24. Lot / L-31 B-27 / LA 413 25. Lol / L-32 B-27 / LA 350 26. Corner Lot/L-33 B-27/LA 583

27. Corner Lot/L-2 B-31/LA 601 28. Corner Lot/L-13 B-31/LA 689 29. Corner Lot/L-28 B-28/LA 675 CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY Puerto Hts. Vill., Puerto (near P. Market) 30. Lot / L 34 B 1 / LA 323 31. Lot / L 25 B 2 / LA 343 32. Lot/L 4 B 5 / LA 384 33. Lot / L 5 B 5 / LA 363

34. Lot / L 8 B 5 / LA 369 35. Lot / L 10 B 5 / LA 445 36. Lot / L 14 B 5 / LA 440 37. Lot / L 16 B 5 / LA 308 38. Lol/L 6 B 6 / LA 314 39. Lot / L 7 B 6 / LA 350 40 Lot / L 10 B 6 / LA 305 41. Lot / L 11 B 6 / LA 318 42. Lot / L 20 B 6 / LA 304 43. Lot / L 26 B 6 / LA 357 44. Lot / L 30 B 6 / LA 353 45. Lot / L 3 B 7 / LA 386 46. Lot / L 4 B 7 / LA 404 47. Lot / L 5 B 7 / LA 375

48. Lot / L 6 B 7 / LA 393 49. Lol/L7B7/LA360

50. Lot / L 8 B 7 / LA 383 51. Lot / L 9 B 7 / LA 370 52. Lot / L 10 B 7 / LA 402 53. Lot / L 12 B 7 / LA 376 54. Corner Lot/L 19 B 7 /LA 383 JUST BRING P20,000 (CASH OR MC) SHOW MONEY TO QUALIFY TO BID FOR EACH PROPERTY CWT IS FOR THE ACCOUNT OF THE BUYER ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS Unionbank may, at anytime, withdraw any / all of the properties listed above prior to auction

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VMI MANPOWER 896-5431 MAID MASIPAG OR UR MONEY BACK I HOUSEHOLD JOBS

VMI MANPOWER 896-5431 MAID MASIPAG OR UR HONEY BACK !

A'A MAIDS/YAYA 4386920

All arnd Maid Yava 4399290

All Around Maid Cook 8956702 **NEED MAIDS 4328194** 

TrustedMaldsYayaCookOriver 7572069

Yaya, Cook H'mald 8957507

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SAH (AYALA) STO. TOMAS BATS. RUSH CHEAP . 09225366606

SSS F'VIEW Rowhouse 2sty LA70m3 P1.1M 09192123441

TAGAYTAY LAKE VIEW 1st class subd. 0927-7968939 Laguna Bel-Air Sta Rosa Low D/P Edna 0917-8312369

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4br w/ grge nr Ateneo UP Chempion Suprmart Sikatuna VIII QC 9215328;09166496838

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Call Mrs Camacho 921-5479 WEDGEWOOD LOT CAVITE 801SQM SALE BELOW MAR-KET ALMA 641-1001

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WEST TRIANGLE 1500m3 corner 09192123441

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For Inquiries, please call: UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS BANK Asset Management and Disposition Division Hotline No. 8119797

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2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% WIO TAKING CAR 7723810/12

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Price: P 379,400,00

Asset Management and Disposition Division

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new certificates will be issued. (PD)- Feb. 12, 19 & 26, 2006) Notice is hereby given that Common wealth Foods, Inc. Cert.#1335 for 345 shares:#1564 for 2,964 shares:#3288 for 1,191 shares;#3753 for 714 shares & of REGINA YUI DEE ITF FREDERICK DEE were reportes lost. If no contest received new certificates will be issued.

were reported lost. If no contest received,

(PDI- Feb. 12, 19 & 26, 2606) Notice is hereby given that Commonweal Foods, Inc. Cert.#1229 for 518 shares:#2073 for 103 shares #2508 for 310 shares:#3260 for 186 shares.#3747 for 111 shares;#4220 for 749 shares & #4750 for 197 shares issued in the name of GILBERT DEE were reported lost. If no contest is received, new certificated will be issued. (PDI- Feb. 12, 19 & 26, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that Commonwealth Foods, Inc. Cort. No.5948 for Fourteen Thor Three Hundred Nine(14,309) shares issued in the name of REGINA YUI DEE was reported lost. If no contest received, now certificate will be issued. (PDI-Feb. 12, 19 & 26, 2006)

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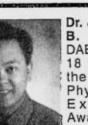
'Ads'on pages A2, A4, A19, A21, A24 & B8

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Sec. Agency/Derma Cinc 5343673

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- Male or Female, at least 22-29 years of age Must be a B.S. Electrical Engineering graduate Preferably with at least 1 year experience in
- related field
- Must be knowledgeable in MS Excel, MS Word and MS project
- Must know how to operate Autocadd operations Willing to work under pressure.

Please bring your resumé to: Power Dimension Inc., PDI Corporate Centre

#3 A. Luna St., Project. 4, Quezon City or email it to

knlevel.cuaresma@powerdimension.com

#### WANTED FREELANCE Architect/Designer **Graphic Artist**

W/ 1 year exp. or newly grad Not more than 35 years old

Send resumé on or before Feb. 18, 2006 to: PODMC Bldg., Helios St., cor. C. Palanca Sts. Sta. Cruz, Manila • Tel. 7350266 / 7338316

#### IMMEDIATE HIRING

Accountant / Bookkeeper **Cafeteria Supervisors** Chef Cooks / Asst. Cooks Waiter / Counter Girl / Busboys **Dishwashers** 

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#### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



The public is hereby notified that NAPOLEON DACO CO. whose photo appears above, is no longer connected with REPERTORY PHILIPPINES as a marketing representative since January 27. 2006

Any transaction entered into by Mr. Co after the said date will not be honored. (PDI - February 12, 2006)

#### A LEADING PLANTATION AND OIL MILL GROUP OF COMPANIES WITH **OPERATION IN LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO IS OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR DESERVING CANDIDATES** TO FILL THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES:

#### Two (2) Plantation Manager-Designate

B.S. Agriculture or Forestry Graduate

Has good business sense and cost management skills

Proficient in oral and written communication Highly organized, creative and has a keen sense for

details and accuracy

Can relate people at different levels Has expertise in planning and control of operations

Knowledgeable in labor laws & other relevant government

Experience in plantation management is an advantage

A professional manager with the ability to motivate, persuade and lead people

Age not more than 47 years old

#### TWO (2) SENIOR FIELD ASSISTANTS

B.S. Agriculture or Forestry Graduate

- Self-driven, self-motivated and highly organized Detail-oriented with a keen sense for accuracy
- Analytical and knowledgeable in interpreting statistics
- Has good interpersonal and communication skills
- Aggressive, ambitious and has potential to assume Management position
- Age not more than 40 years old

#### TEN (10) FIELD SUPERVISORS

- B.S. Agriculture or Forestry Graduate
- A team player with the ability to motivate, persuade and
- Self-driven, self-motivated and ambitious for higher
- Results-oriented, dynamic and can perform effectively under extreme pressures
- Good in both oral and written communications
- Age not more than 30 years old

#### TWO (2) ACCOUNTANTS

- B.S. Accounting Graduate preferably CPAs
- Highly organized and has a keen sense for details and accuracy with ability to perform effectively under extreme
- Proficient in financial analysis and structuring of financial packages
- Computer-literate and with knowledge in auditing procedures
- Has in-depth knowledge in purchasing and procurement
- procedures
  - Age not more than 40 years old

#### TWO (2) MILL MANAGER-DESIGNATE

- Licensed Mechanical, Chemical or Electrical Engineer
- Preferably a holder of boiler operations license Minimum of five years working experience with managerial capacity preferably in power or industrial processing plant
  - Possesses good business sense and cost management skills
  - With knowledge in environmental regulations and DOLE's Occupational Safety and Health Standards
- Possesses good communication skills both in oral and
- written English Computer-literate, knowledge in Autocad is an advantage
- Trained in Problem-Solving & Decision-Making and
- Management By Objectives
- Knowledgeable in production and process control
- Possesses good character, leadership skills and a team
- Age not more than 47 years old

#### TWO (2) WILL ENGINEERS

- Licensed Mechanical, Chemical or Electrical Engineer
- Preferably a holder of boiler operations license Minimum of three years working experience with supervisory capacity preferably in power or industrial
- processing plant Must have experience in operation and maintenance of steam boilers, steam turbines, material conveying equipment, fans
- and blowers, and other standard factory equipment Highly organized, self-driven and self-motivated
- Must be familiar with DOLE Occupational and Safety Health Standards
- Possesses good communication skills both in oral and written English
- Computer-literate, Knowledgeable in Autocad is an
- advantage Knowledgeable in production and process control
- Possesses good character, leadership skills and a team
- Age not more than 37 years old

#### hree (3) laboratory analysts

- Licensed Chemical Engineer or Chemist
- Minimum of two years hand-on working experience in a factory laboratory
- Must be familiar with laboratory standards and practices
- Must have experience in boiler water analysis, water treatment, and waste water and process effluent analysis
- Computer-literate
- Age not more than 35 years old

Application letter with resumé and 2x2 ID picture may be sent to:

API, Door 3, Granland Bldg., R. Castillo St., Agdao, Davao City or E-mail to apidvo@ultimate.info.com.ph





#### INVITATION TO BID

#### **Asian Utility Vehicle**

The Belgian Integrated Agrarian Reform Programme (BIARSP) is a bilateral development programme between the Governments of the Philippines and Belgium. Its aim is to assist the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to successfully complete the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

BIARSP is currently on its third and final phase of implementation. BIARSP is regarded as an important programme for agrarian reform. It is highly regarded for its integrated approach covering not only agricultural support services but also education, public health and institutional capacity building. To further strengthen the programme's implementation, BIARSP supports its lead

partner agency, the DAR, in upgrading its transportation complement by providing Asian Utility Vehicles (AUV) for DAR Region 7 & 9 and its DAR Provincial Offices. The BIARSP-Technical Support and Coordination Office (TSCO) therefore invites eligible companies to bid for 10 AUVs in two batches. The vehicles shall be delivered to

the four (4) provinces of Region VII and the four (4) provinces of Region IX. Interested parties are invited to visit www.biarsptsco.org (OPPORTUNITIES -Tenders) for the specifications as well as delivery destinations for the said equipment. Please submit proposed technical document with information such as company profile, BIR tax clearance and proposed budgetary requirements, through any of the following:

tsco@biarsptsco.org BIARSP - TSCO, 2nd Floor Sol Y Mar Bldg., E-mail Post Cor. Rizal Blvd. - San Juan Street,

Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental (035) 422-7736 For further queries, please get in touch with Mary Marlyn C. Llosa, Administrative Officer, at telephone #s: (035) 225-5929; 225-5930; 225-8681; and 422-7459.

Interested parties are advised to submit their documents not later than March 18, 2006

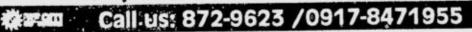
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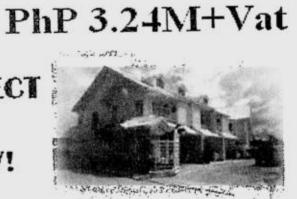
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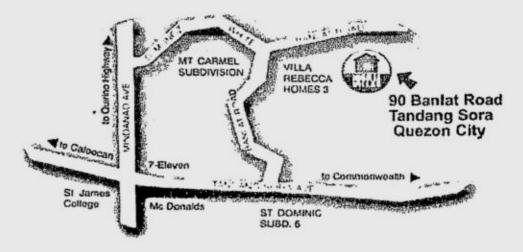


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LEGEND INTERNATIONAL RESORTS LTD.

A prestigious casino/hotel located at Subic Bay Freeport Zone is currently in need of:

#### SECURITY & SAFETY MANAGER

#### JOB SUMMARY:

Plans, leads, organizes and controls all activities related to security management within Legend International Resorts, Limited (LIRL) to ensure protection of life, properties and preservation of peace and order. Develops and maintains direct operational supervision and control of the Security and Safety Departments.

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum of B.S. in either Criminal Justice, Criminology or Police
- Must have attended Professional Law Enforcement/Security Courses for Executive
- Management; At least Ten (10) years work experience in all phases of Law Enforcement or
- Strong Management Skills; Strong interpersonal skills and analytical ability;
- Knowledge in Physical Security;
- Can deal with all types/levels of people;
- Investigative Management Skills; Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Knowledgeable on criminal laws that effect security;
- Professional; Fair/Objective; Has moral courage; Honest and Trustworthy; Loyal

#### ASSISTANT RESTAURANT MANAGER

Supervises and directs all operational activities of the restaurant. Plans various projects which include material requirements, manpower and promotional activities in coordination

- College graduate, preferably Hotel and Restaurant Management; any cullnary-
- related course or equivalent experience; Good command of Chinese language (preferably Mandarin and Cantonese);
- At least five (5) years practical experience in a senior position handling profitable hotel F&B operations in a Chinese restaurant;
- Energetic, result-oriented and with strong leadership qualities; Excellent written and oral communication skills;
- Flexible, willing to work on long hours.

#### ASSISTANT VIP SERVICES MANAGER

Provides necessary supervision and make sound decisions on most if not all aspects of VIP Services operations Supervises and coordinates activities of personnel to ensure prompt and courteous service to guests. Able to formulate solutions on problems encountered by the department by providing the necessary services to our valued quests.

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

- College graduate of any course;
- Minimum of three (3) years experience in Casino Industry;
- Minimum of two (2) years exposure in junket operations and negotiations;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills; Knowledge of any Asian language is an advantage;
- Strong interpersonal skills;
- Possesses leadership qualities:
- Excellent public relations skills;
- Prepared to work overtime when required;
- Good working knowledge of necessary computer softwares (Word, Excel,
- Powerpoint, Front Page, etc.).

#### CASINO SLOT MANAGER

Ensures the smooth operations of the slot machines and coordinates with gaming management staff and other departments concerned, its operations and promotions. Incharge of planning, promoting and improving performance of slot revenue; also responsible for public relations and the care of slot playing customers.

- College graduate of any course;
- Minimum of five (5) years experience in casino slots operations; Able to establish rapport and professional relations with casino players;
- Able to prepare and write clear and concise reports, when needed;
- Good public and employee relations;
- Strong leadership; Trustworthy, reliable person whose honesty and integrity is beyond doubt; Diplomatic, tactful, calm, confident and attentive when attending to customer complaints:
- Above aver Firm and fair in decision making.

#### PR ASSOCIATE

#### JOB SUMMARY:

Does copywriting and production work for hotel promotions. Provides administrative support to ensure effective coordination with various departments within the organization relative to the events being undertaken, and with the events' technical partners, sponsors and target participants.

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Graduate of Mass Communication/Broadcasting/Journalism
- At least two (2) years experience in feature/creative writing, scriptwriting; PR presentation skills; Project/Events Management and Marketing; Radio/TV
- production; Advertising Copywriting; Flexible, willing to work extended hours.

#### SURVEILLANCE OFFICER

#### JOB SUMMARY:

Observes all activities of guests and employees for any irregularity on the Casino floor, cashier cages, slot operations, count rooms, slot operations, count rooms and support areas, via the CCTV system, and the compliance of Company policies and procedures.

- Minimum of one (1) year experience as Surveillance Officer;
- College graduate (any four-year course); Overseas exposure is an advantage;
- Strong interpersonal skills and analytical ability; Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Must have flexible working habit;
- Can work under pressure;
- Can keep confidential information

#### JR. SURVEILLANCE OFFICER

#### JOB SUMMARY:

Monitors gaming and support areas with the aid of CCTV. Prepares incident and other related reports as may be required by the Surveillance Officer/Executive.

- Minimum of one (1) year Casino Gaming experience as inspector or above;
- College level; Knowledgeable in conducting investigations and report writing is an advantage;
- Keen observer; strong analytical ability; Good oral and written communication skills;
- Computer literate; Can work under pressure;
- Patient and honest; Overseas exposure is an advantage.
- Residents of Olongapo, Zambales, Bataan, Pampanga and/or other areas in Central Luzon are preferred. Interested applicants may send / submit their resumés / bio-data with supporting documents and recent 2x2 photo to:

#### LEGEND INTERNATIONAL RESORTS LIMITED

Recruitment & Training Office 2F Oak Bldg., Legenda Suites, Cubi Point, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Olongapo City 2200 Fax No. (047) 252-8978, 2525032 EMAIL Address: hrd@legendanet.com

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#### STAM BUILDERS & DEVELOPERS, INC. Is looking for Top-Notch

#### LICENSED CIVIL / **AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS**

BASIC QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

**ASSIFIEDS** 

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

- O Graduate of Civil or Agricultural Engineering; with good academic records.
- o Minimum of 5 years hands-on experience with land development works and horizontal construction. Experience with reputable construction companies would be a plus.
- O Must be adept in road construction & maintenance, site grading works, water impound dams and maintenance of heavy equipment.
- o Must be willing to be based in the farm (1 1/2 hr from Cagayan De Oro). Willing to work on-site 6 days a week. o A good working knowledge on basic surveying would be
- an added advantage. \*\*We will offer competitive salary (with staff house facility) to

the Qualified Applicant. QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND THEIR RESUME WITH PICTURE AND TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS TO:

> THE RECRUITMENT MANAGER (CODE: CIVIL/AGRI ENGINEERS)

80 Roces Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City Or Email: tink.shelley@gmail.com

\*Previous applicants need not apply

# RAMCAR TECHNOLOGY INC.

#### URGENTLY NEEDS THE FOLLOWING:

#### ASSISTANT MOULDMAKERS

Male; Graduate of Technical/Vocational course With 3-5 years experience in Moldmaking or Machine Shop

#### **MACHINISTS**

Male; Technical/Vocational course graduate With at least 2 years experience in Machine Shop Operation MECHANICAL/MACHINE ASSEMBLERS

#### Male; Technical Course Graduate With minimum of 5 years experience as Machine Assembler

**CNC MILLING OPERATORS** Male; Graduate of Technical Course

#### Must have basic knowledge in CNC Machine Operation MECHANICAL/MACHINE DESIGNERS

Male: Graduate of Mechanical Engineering With expertise in AUTOCAD or any equivalent software design Experience in Machine or Mold Design for Plastic is an advantage

#### ELECTRICAL/INSTRUMENTATION TECHNICIAN

Male; Graduate of ECE or Electromechanics Technology Knowledgeable in Hydraulics and Pneumatics At least 5'5" in height and must have big body built

#### DRCC - QUALITY SYSTEMS CUSTODIAN

Female; Graduate of Library Science Must be proficient in Computer

Note: We have preference for 21-35 age group Applicants for all positions must be willing to be based in Sta. Maria, Bulacan

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO APPLY PERSONALLY WITH THEIR RESUMÉ AND 2X2 I.D. PICTURE TO:

#### CORPORATE RECRUITMENT SECTION (BATTERY GROUP) RAMCAR CENTER

80-82 Roces Avenue, Diliman, Q.C. Tel. No. 4121779 or email to: bcsarmiento@motolite.com

# FOR SALE

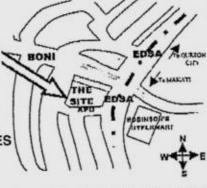
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Prime lot for sale along Edsa, near MRT Station and Guadalupe. Ideal for commercial building or high-rise condominium. LOT AREA: 1,618 sqm.

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### H THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES

wishes to announce its

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID ON Name of the Project: For One-Year Contract of Services for Engineering and Building Maintenance of Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

Approved Budget for Contract is SIX MILLION THREE HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE PESOS AND 04/100 (P6,366,545.04).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/lail criteria as specified in the implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act."

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretarial (c/o Cecilia E. Funtinilla) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below starting February 10, 2006 from 3:00 pm to 6:00

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee in the amount of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000). The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative The CCP BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to

all Interested parties on February 28, 2006; 3:00 pm, 3/F Tanghalang Pambansa CCP (Main Bldg.). Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before March 14, 2006; 3:00 pm. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash/certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit or bank guarantee or surety bond based on the agency approved budget for contract. Late Bids shall

Bid opening shall be on March 14, 2006, 3:00 pm. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address

The award of the project shall be based on the lowest calculated responsive bid received from the Bidders. The CCP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

**BAC Secretariat** Cecilia E. Funtinilla
3/F CCP Tanghalang Pambansa (CCP Main Bldg.)
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Tel Nos. 632-832-3567

632-832-1125 local 1106/1107 Fax No. 632-551-5960 Website: www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

(Sgd.) NIEVES T. DULDULAO **BAC Chairperson** (PDI - Feb 12 & 19 2006)



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Republic of the Philippines Province of Negros Or CITY OF BAYAWAN BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

#### http www.bayawancity.gov.ph INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City of Bayawan, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC-I), invites suppliers/ s/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project ITEMS BID NO. PR NO. JO 100-06- To supply and deliver Diesel Fuel for the LGU Operations - CY 2006

01-002A Bid documents shall be available at the BAC Office, Annex Building Sports Complex Building. LGU Bayawan City upon payment of prescribed non-refundable fee.

Bidders shall drop their technical and Innancial proposals in the bid box at the BAC-I Secretariat
Office, Bayawan City on or before the deadline of submission of bids.

co, Bayawan City on or before the deadline of submission of olds.

All particulars relative to eligibility process, opening and evaluation of bids, post-qualification and and of contract shall be governed by the applicable provision of RA. 9184.

The City of Bayawan reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to warve any defects or formality rein and to accept bids considered responsive and most advantageous to the government. The implete schedule of activities is listed, as follows. Schedule February 6 to March 3, 2006 February 21, 2006, 10:00 A.M. Issuance of Bld Documents Pre-bld Conference

Not later than March 3, 2006

Approved by (Sgd.) PANCHO F. VILLASIS

March 7, 2006, 10:30 A.M.

2 STOREY COMM'L LAND & BLDG. (FORMER BANK SITE)

LOT 5 & 6 BLK. 1, NAT'L ROAD TUNASAN, MUNTINLUPA CITY

GRD. FLR.: 270 sqm. Call: (02) 814-5637 (02) 892-0559 (02) 812-4958 email: etvergara@plantersbank.com.ph or etvergara@yahoo.com

TOTAL LOT AREA: 1,013 sqm.

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Eligibility Check

(PDI - Feb. 5 & 12, 2006)

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# BITUARIES

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## **NELSON NEPOMUCENO** MANANKIL

Peacefully joined his Creator on February 10, 2006 at the age of 64.

His wife Evangelina; children Joy and Chito, Noel, Grace and Joel, and Marian; and granddaughter Eliana request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Mary Memorial Chapels, Angeles City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, February 14, 2006 after the 2 p.m. Mass.



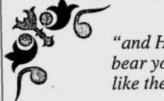
of Roxas City, Capiz

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 11, 2006, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

His loving wife, Doris; children Dodong & Jamie, Mimit, Gilly, Toti & Yvonne, Vangie & Eric, and Wally; and grandchildren Enzo, Gari, Thea, and Raffy request all relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on February 14, 2006, Tuesday morning.



"and He will raise you up on eagles' wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun and hold you in the palm of His hand."



#### husband of MIGUELITA CARMONA (†)

Peacefully joined his Creator on February 10, 2006 at the age of 74.

His children, Goodie, Monching, Clara, Dandoy, Alot, Malet, Roland and Rina; grandchildren and great grandchildren; siblings, Ramoncito (†), Eva (†), and Ponciano.

Relatives and friends request to offer prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sta. Maria Della Strada Parish Church, Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, February 15, 2006 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.



"For I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." - John 14:6

We, the family of the late

who peacefully joined his Creator on January 29, 2006

Wish to thank all of you who, by of your presence, prayers, thoughts and flowers, offered us solace and comfort. We also thank you for joining us in remembering him who in so many ways, have touched our lives forever.

"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..

- Psalm 21:15

Peacefully joined her Creator on February 11, 2006 at the age of 74.

Her husband Marianito; children Myrna & Noel Lucero, Julie, Cynthia & Amado Lim, Abet & Lara; and grandchildren Rommel, Stacey, Reandro, Nichole, J-Ann, Cindy and Amanda request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

> Her body lies in state at the Holy Trinity Chapel, Sucat Road, Parañaque.

Cremation will be on February 12, 2006, 6 p.m. at the Crematorium of the Holy Trinity Chapel.

"All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel Mother. No man is poor who has a godly mother." - Abraham Lincoln



Our Dearly Beloved

## **Dr. Pedro Poblete** Mendonez Ph.D.

April 27, 1921 - December 6, 2005

Passed away peacefully at Maroondah Hospital, Melbourne, Australia at the age of 84.

Beloved and loving husband of Belen for 62 years; father of Bernadette Russell of Syracuse, aville, Australia: Antonio of Chicago, Illinois; Corazon New York; Gemma Skeggs of Keeley of Perth, Australia; Maria (Ruby) Mendonez of Wantirna, Australia; and Kelly Ibardolosa of Perth, Australia; grandfather of 13 and great grandfather of two.

He was an educator who came to Melbourne from the Philippines in 1985. He held many positions in higher education in his native country, retiring as a vice president of the Rizal Technological University. He was the founding president of Pilipino Professionals of Victoria. He passionately worked to promote career opportunities in Victoria for Asian professionals.

May God bestow peace and happiness on Pedro, who will always affectionately remain in our hearts, minds and prayers.

Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, February 18, 2006, 11:00 am at Parish of the Divine Mercy, Maano corner Madasalin Sts., Sikatuna Village, Quezon City.



## ALFREDO ABAD ROSALES, SR.

Lumban, Laguna and NAPOCOR Village,

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 10, 2006 at the age of 76.

His loving wife Dr. Marcela Reyes; children Rev. Fr. Angelito, SDV, Alfredo Jr. & Glenda, Engr. Ambrocio & Otchie, Engr. Augustus and Alexander; grandchildren, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be transferred on Tuesday, February 14, 2006 in Lumban, Laguna.

Interment will be on February 16, 2006.



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Our Dearly Beloved Kanay

## HERMOGENA VALUANZA BEATO

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 9, 2006 at the age of 95.

Her children Teresita Santos, Lourdes Ferrer and Remedios Bicomong, sons-in-law, grandchildren and great grandchildren, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Sacred Heart Chapel of the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, Dao St., San Antonio Village, Makati City.

Cremation will be at Heritage Memorial Park Crematory on February 15, 2:00 p.m.



## UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES MANILA

National Graduate Office for the Health Sciences

announces the offering of the following graduate programs for AY 2006-2007

#### College of Allied Medical Professions

- Master of Clinical Audiology<sup>1</sup>
- Master of Rehabilitation Science Master of Rehabilitation Science (Speech Pathology)

#### College of Arts and Sciences

- Master of Science in Health Informatics<sup>2</sup>
- (Bioinformatics/ Medical Informatics) Master of Arts in Health Policy Studies
- (Health Social Science) Master of Management

#### (Business Management / Public Management)

#### College of Dentistry

- Master of Science in Dentistry (Orthodontics)
- Certificate of Proficiency in Orthodontics

#### College of Medicine

- Master of Science in Biochemistry
- Master of Science in Clinical Epidemiology Master of Science in Clinical Medicine (Child Health / Family Medicine / Medical Oncology / Obstetrics-Gynecology /
- Surgery) Master of Science in Physiology
- Master of Science in Health Informatics<sup>2</sup> (Bioinformatics/ Medical Informatics)
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- Master of Clinical Medicine
- (Medical Oncology)
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Visit www.upm.edu.ph/gradoffice for downloadable forms. Mailing address: National Graduate Office for the Health Sciences, University of the Philippines Manila, 3/F Joaquin Gonzales Hall, Padre Faura corner Ma. Orosa Street, Ermita, 1000 Manila.

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#### College of Pharmacy

Master of Science in Pharmacy (Hospital Pharmacy/ Industrial Pharmacy/ Pharmaceutical Chemistry)

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- Master of Arts in Health Policy Studies (Health Sciences)
- Master of Hospital Administration4
- Master of Public Health<sup>4</sup>
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- Joint program of the College of Medicine and the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy of UP Diliman
- 4 Also offered in distance mode by the UP Open University

Application Period until **APRIL 21, 2006** 

# Cannes Lions 2006 open for registration

MEDIA, ADVERTISERS AND ADVERTISING practitioners interested to attend the 53rd Cannes International Advertising Festival can now register online at www.canneslions.com.

This year's online delegate registration provides information on registration, hotel reservations and other practical information.

#### **New CEO** appointed

Penny Reid, who has over 20 years work experience at Saatchi & Saatchi, TBWA\GGT and Tequila London, has been appointed CEO of the festival.

"This is in line with our announcement earlier in the year that we would strengthen our management team and ensure a succession plan was in place," said Terry Savage, Cannes executive chair.

"Penny has extensive experience at all levels of the business, and my team and I look forward to working with her to build on the success of last year's festival" he added.

#### 2006 Jury presidents

1 month

2 months

3 months

6 months

The Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival has assembled some of the most talented, respected and awarded creative

\$1,000 to 9,999

CAMPAC AND SHEET ARRESTS WITH SHEET AND AND AND AND AND AND AND ADDRESS OF THE AND ADDRESS OF THE AND ADDRESS OF THE AND ADDRESS OF THE ADDRE

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names in advertising to preside over the different juries.

The festival organizers announced that David Droga will preside over both the Film and Press Cannes Lions juries, while Guillaume Van Der Stighelen, copywriter and creative partner of Duval Guillaume, Belgium

will chair the Radio Lions jury. Steve Harrison, managing director and creative partner of Harrison Troughton Wunderman has been named the Lions Direct Jury president, while Renetta McCann, CEO of Starcom MediaVest Group (SMG) will chair the Media Lions jury. The International Festival also announced the appointment of Matias Palm-Jensen, creative president of Farfar, Sweden as the Cyber Lions jury president and Fernando Vega Olmos, president of VegaOlmosPonce, Argentina and Unilever Worldwide creative director (Lowe) as this year's Outdoor jury president.

#### Entries now open

\$100,000

3.4375% 3.5000%

Entrant companies are invited to submit their work in all categories-Film, Press, Outdoor, Lions Direct, Media Lions, Cyber Lions, Radio Lions, Titanium Lions and the new cat-egory, Promo Lions.

Entry forms can be completed online at www.cannes-

lions.com Deadlines:

Press & Outdoor Entries: 10 March 2006

Film Entries: 10

March 2006 Radio Lions Entries: 17 March 2006 Lions Direct En-

tries: 17 March 2006 Promo Lions Entries: 17 March 2006 Media Lions Entries: 17 March 2006

Cyber Lions Entries: 24 March 2006 Titanium Entries: 24 March 2006

The 53rd International Advertising Festival will be held on June 18-24, 2006 in Cannes, France.

PA器 is a fund management company wholly owned by Philamlife, the largest' insurance company in the country. It manages funds professionally through full-time managers who are focused on seizing market opportunities.

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Monach with their of an infat

By Chit Roces Contributor

N VALENTINE'S DAY, CUPID made one of his periodic visits to Earth to see if traditions were still alive. One of Cupid's concerns was that many earthlings may have begun to dread Valentine's Day because it had gone the way of Christmas, completely commercialized, thus open to all manner of opportunism, its essence lost.

This time around, he dropped in on a particular couple, one he had been monitoring for years. Though not as bad as Scrooge, who humbugged Christmas, this couple, judging by the Valentine's days of the past quarter century, had managed to ignore it.

Sure enough, when he arrived at his sub-jects' cozy pad, Cupid found no red roses, no box of chocolates, no cards with red-heart cutouts, indeed nothing whatever to mark the occasion, all in perfect keeping with their own tradition of non-observance.

Never a Valentine's card from this writer? Well, he did give her a book of poems with the most romantic dedication once, but on the wrong day, not on Valentine's. Taken by the dedication himself, Cupid recited it from memory, and thought, apparently beginning to feel concessionary, did he really need to say

anything more? ..... Ah, but there was enough evidence in the bedroom to suggest some observance the night before-although, again, on the wrong night. And, looking at his investigation notes, Cupid observed that love-making wasn't to them a conscious way either of marking special occasions like birthdays, anniversaries and the beginnings and ends of brief separations, so that whether it happened the night before Valentine's had nothing to do with it.

They treated themselves to a concert that evening, too, but then again, shows like that do come around Valentine's. Before going, they had called for an unromantic fast-food delivery at 5:30 p.m. to stock themselves for the long night. They had known about the concert rather late and what few tickets there had remained were for seats in the rafters.

#### Coming around

But as surely as it was no Valentine's date by his standards, Cupid did not miss one important detail: They got to the concert hall with plenty of time to spare. Much time and energy had been squandered on rows over her tardiness; punctuality was to him a definitely big deal.

It might have taken her years to come around, but she did, and last night's achievement was no mere momentary lapse of character. Not to be outdone, he had stopped smoking for more than five years now, with no prodding from her.

Those mutual turnarounds spelled L-O-V-E in a big way any day in Cupid's book.

But, for today, Cupid was looking for signs of Valentine's observance. He was beginning to feel petty, and was now willing to settle for anything. Anyway, the day had just begun, he consoled himself. Surely, one of them would remember.

Some mornings she woke up giggling, hardly able to wait to share a funny dream or joke with him. Sometimes there wasn't time to lose; she'd jump out of bed and race to the bathroom. Today, she roused singing softly, "Te voglio bene sai..." (just the line, not the entire aria), doubtless a carryover from last night's performance, at the same time resting a hand on his chest.

He caught her hand and held it, popping one eye open. He was a slow riser-even his eyes opened one at a time.

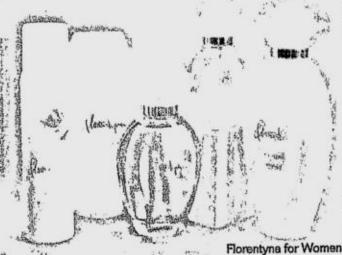
He was in the same position he slept in but occupied less space now. She had claimed far more than her share of the bed, and had managed to kick three of the seven pillows off it. It's Valentine's! Cupid caught himself trying to prompt them, but, of course, not managing to be heard.

Cupid was desperate now. He seemed to have found the perfect couple for Valentine's, but couldn't seem to get them to observe it. Suddenly, he remembered, and how could he have missed it! "Te voglio bene sai" was "I love you" in his own native Italian, and sung yet. That decidedly had more weight than all the red roses and heart-adorned cards in the

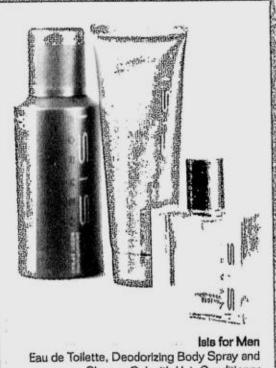
world of Valentine! As he prepared to leave, finally gratified, Cupid heard her purr, "Happy Valentine's," and watched him respond with a smile and a tender tap on her hand still resting on his chest.



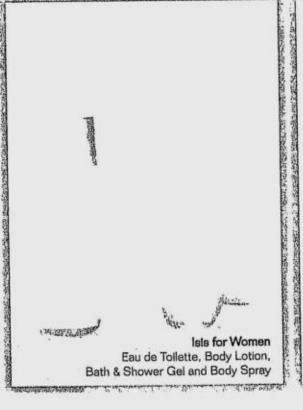




Eau de Tollette, Body Spray, Body Cream, Shower Cream, Body Powder, Hand Cream and Body Lotion



Shower Gel with Hair Conditioner







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## Sunday LIFESTYLE

# Lome cooking, hearts beating

Avoid the traffic chaos, stay at home, and whip up your own bacchanalia







Hale and hearty dishes

benefit your health?

Raymundo adds.

Raymundo (tel. 8111827).

Neo-Moroccan Prawn and

2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil

Kani Couscous

frozen crabmeat

1/2 tsp salt

1 c.couscous

3 thsp sliced garlic

3 tbsp chopped onions

1/2 c chopped tomatoes

1 tsp dried basil leaves

150 g prawns, shelled

1 1/4 c seafood stock

2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil

Sauté garlic, onions, tomatoes

and basil in oil. Add prawns and

kani and cook just until prawns

turn pink. Remove from pan and

pour in stock. Bring to a boil and

season with salt and pepper. Turn

off fire and add in couscous and

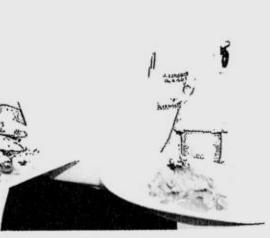
sautéed seafood. Cover and let sit

for at least a minute, then fluff with a fork. Serve immediately. Top with

4 sticks kani, quartered, or 1/2 c

that married couples prepare a

healthy and balanced set of meals because good, nutritious food



Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes Photos by Ryan Lim

■ HE PERFECT V-DAY REQUIRES creativity, planning and the right choice of food.

For young couples who are always on-thego, executive sous chef Joanne Limoanco of Dusit Hotel Nikko's Fiesta San Miguel has prepared a fool-proof salad and baked mussels to kick off any romantic dinner.

These wonderful dishes seem like they can only be pulled off by chefs, but they are quite simple to do at home.

"Smoked salmon is a well-appreciated delicacy by a lot of people," says Limoanco (tel. 8673333). "It's flavorful on its own and when you put it in a salad, the sweetness and tartness of the dressing and crunchiness of the greens and bread chips complement the saltiness of the smoked salmon.

The other dish is a take on the popular baked mussels, "a fun dish that couples can work on together."

A good bottle of Chardonnay or even champagne will definitely complement both dishes, not to mention enhance the romance.

#### Smoked Salmon Salad

200-250 g romaine lettuce or other mixed greens (washed and spun dry) 150 g smoked salmon fillets

20 g capers



#### **SMOKED Salmon Salad**

1 c croutons or bread chips (thin slices of bread slightly heated in the oven)

Dressing:

½ c mayonnaise 2 tbsp dijon mustard

2 tbsp honey

1 tsp garlic

1 tsp dill leaves

STRAWBERRY and

Chocolate Fondue

juice of 1 lemon 2 tsp parmesan cheese

Combine all ingredients in a blender. Puree until dressing is smooth. Adjust seasoning. Transfer dressing into a squirt bottle and chill until ready to use. Arrange smoked salmon fillets flat, on the center of the plate. Arrange the mixed greens on top. Sprinkle with capers and croutons. Drizzle dressing

#### around the plate.

#### Baked Mussels Wrapped in Bacon

500 g mussels (New Zealand mussels),

100 g honey-cured bacon strips or prosciut-

1 c grated mozzarella or quick-melt cheese

½ c parmesan cheese 1/2 c bread crumbs

Sauce:

1/4 c unsalted butter

2 tbsp garlic, minced

1/4 c flour 2 c milk

1 c spinach leaves, chopped

Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat the oven to 350°F. (If using a toaster oven, you can preheat it after you have seared the mussels). To make the sauce: Heat butter in a hot pan. Sweat garlic. Whisk in flour. Gradually add the milk while whisking. Add the chopped spinach leaves. Season sauce with salt and pepper. Set the sauce aside until ready to

Gently remove the mussels from the shell and wrap each with half a strip of bacon. Heat a nonstick pan and sear each bacon-wrapped mussel. Return the meat onto the shell. Spoon the sauce over the mussels. Sprinkle with cheese and bread crumbs. Bake the mussels in the oven for 10-15 minutes or until the cheese



**NEO-MOROCCAN Prawn** 



FOOD stylist and chef Eugene Raymundo

1/4 c diet lime soda or any clear soft drink

5 sprigs fresh rosemary or 1 tsp

dried rosemary leaves 1 tbsp lemon juice

1 1/2 tsp Worcestershire sauce 2 tbsp honey or brown sugar

Pinch of pepper

Place all ingredients in a Glad freezer bag. Lock the bag and "pound" chicken pieces for a few seconds to blend all ingredients well. Chill for at least three hours before cooking, or freeze for up to

two weeks. Heat a nonstick pan or grill pan. Drizzle a bit of olive oil or any vegetable oil. Cook chicken on high heat, approximately 2 minutes on each side. Serve with a slice of

Light Maple and Berry Pan-

2 packs Splenda or 3 tbsp sugar

1/8 tsp vanilla extract (option-

1 tsp unflavored gelatin

1/3 c chopped strawberries

1 3/4 c low-fat milk

na Cotta

#### Chicken Ham and Melon Cocktails

toasted pine nuts if desired.

100 g chicken ham, cut into 1"

¼ pc melon, cut into chunks

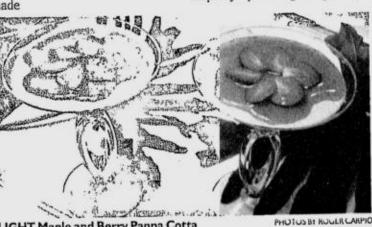
Salt and pepper Season melon chunks with salt and pepper. Wrap each melon with a strip of ham and secure with

#### cocktail picks. Serve chilled. Zesty Grilled Chicken Steak

250 g chicken breast fillet, skin

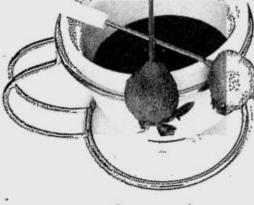
removed 3 tbsp bottled barbecue mari-

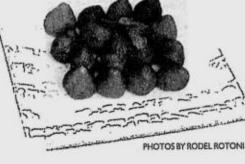
Fresh strawberries Maple syrup Place milk, gelatin and sweetener in a pan. Cook over low heat until gelati is completely dissolved. Add chopped strawberries. Pour into desired molds and let cool before chilling overnight. To serve, top with sliced strawberries and maple syrup. Vangie Baga-Reyes



LIGHT Maple and Berry Panna Cotta







Feast for the senses

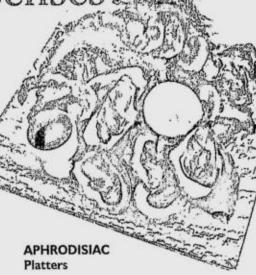
LET'S GET REAL: VALENTINE'S Day is a day of hideous traffic!

Translation: a perfect time to rather stay at home and make something fun and even sensuous feasts for your date.

Now, if you're trying to impress your date, wouldn't it be nice to serve an "aphrodisiac" platter accompanied by a glass of champagne with caviar on the side while you sit together around a candle-lit table? The champagne will definitely complement the food and inspire you to linger at the table long after you're done eating.

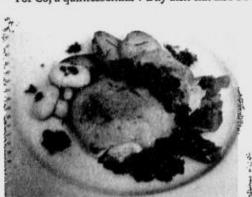
Chef Florabel Co has created a seafood platter of oysters, lobster and prawns that will surely spice up the evening. A rousing strawberry and chocolate fondue will likewise bolster the feeling of togetherness and

"Valentine's Day is one such occasion that couples celebrate by doing something together, like eating," says Co (tel. 6387527). For Co, a quintessential V-Day dish can also be



rack of lamb, a bit heavy in the stomach yet truly satisfying. She says there's nothing hard about doing this dish but there's something about the juicy pistachio-crusted red meat that looks as if you've pulled all the stops.

If your date insists on something light and easy for dinner, baked fish will definitely do the trick.



LAPU-LAPU with Smoked Salmon and

Mushroom



**PISTACHIO-CRUSTED Rack of Lamb** 



Aphrodisiac Platters

250 g lobster 5 pcs prawns 8 pcs fresh oyster in shell 15 g lump fish caviar Blanch lobster and prawns in salted

water, shocked in ice water. Serve with fresh oyster, caviar and a glass of cham-

#### Pistachio-Crusted Rack of Lamb

450 g lamb 60 g couscous

10 g chopped pistachio nuts

50 g peeled tomato

80 ml rosemary jus

Grill rack of lamb and coat with chopped pistachios and bake to desired doneness. Serve with couscous and grilled vegetable.

#### Lapu-lapu with Smoked Salmon and Mushroom

150 g lapu-lapu fillet 80 g smoked salmon

100 g roasted potato

40 g arugula 80 ml sun-dried tomato vinaigrette

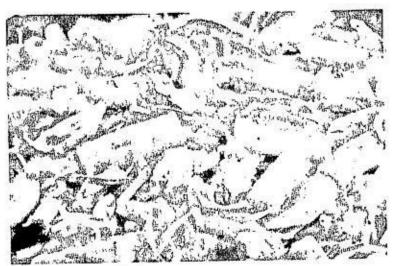
40 g grilled button mushroom Season lapu-lapu fillet and wrap with smoked salmon. Bake for 15 minutes at 350°F.

Serve with roasted potatoes and arugula and mushroom topped with sun-dried tomato vinaigrette.

#### Strawberry and Chocolate Fondue

300 g dark bitter chocolate 12 pcs fresh strawberries

Melt chocolate in double boiler. Add 1 tbsp of corn or canola oil and serve. Vangle Baga-Reyes



**OUILAIN** Tuna at Cabalen



PORTOBELLO Mushroom and Asparagus Symphony. Grilled Portobello mushroom and roasted fresh asparagus spears with parmesan shavings and herbed croutons in a honey-lime dressing

# Plateful of mush and more

CABALEN offers Regional Buffet, a wide array of food selection featuring the best dishes across the country. Taste the flavors of Palawan's Pusit Pulutan and Alimasag at Langka sa Gata, Binartek Nga Manok of Ilocos, Laguna's Hipon sa Latik, Ensaladang Suha of Davao, among others. For Valentine's Day, Cabalen presents special dishes, Feb. 13-15. Dishes include Quilain Tuna, Bulalo with Mais, Balot a la Pobre, Sisig, Inihaw Panga ng Tuna, Baked Tahong and Buco Pandan Shake for a heartwarming treat. Cabalen branches are at 67 West Ave., QC; 2/L, SM City North Edsa, QC; 4/L, Bldg B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong; 2/L, Robinsons Place Ermita, Manila; Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati; G/L, Robinsons Starmills, San Fernando Pampanga; Brickroad Area, Sta Lucia East Grand Mall, Cainta, Rizal; and Village Square Harrison Plaza, Manila. Call 9111584. For catering services, call 4219220 or 9135522.

GATEWAY MALL'S MANDARIN CAFÉ & DELI has something big to offer sweethearts and certified sweet tooths this season of love. Just bring your loved ones to Mandarin Café & Deli, and have the Special Valentine Treat menu with a non-alcoholic drink or a glass of sparkling wine. For tempting desserts, try out Mandarin Café's new Valentine's Day concoction, the Flourless Chocolate Cake with minted mangoes. Until Feb. 14, Mandarin Café & Deli has a Valentine set of chocolates and flowers for loyal diners. Besides these special treats, Mandarin Café & Deli offers its popular a la carte menu for a memorable dining out this Valentine's. Mandarin Café and Deli is at UG/F, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center's high-end fashion and dining destination.

SUPERBOWL OF CHINA offers super sweet desserts of your choice for free. For a minimum purchase of P500, get any of the following: Clas-

sic Choco Sundae, Decadent Sundae or the Classic Strawberry Sundae. The promo is until Feb. 19, for dine-in only.

MUSEUM CAFÉ offers a Valentine dinner, Sensual Wisdom, on Feb. 14, for P975++ per person. The menu consists of a choice of Herb and Beetroot Cured Pacific Salmon, Endive and Red Ruby Salad or Seared Foie Gras and Scallop. Entrées include Seared French Duck Breast, Seabass, or Beef Tenderloin with Sarawak Pineapple Tarte Tatin. Plus, Chocolate Platter and a complimentary bottle of Fortant de France and a bottle of Baileys Irish Cream for every group of five. Globe Platinum members get complimentary champagne and enjoy 50-percent discount. M is at G/F, Ayala Museum's Glass Wing. Call 7573000 or 7576000.

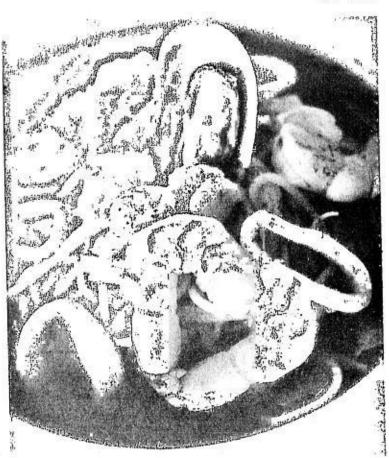
AZZURRO BISTRO & BAR offers Valentine's Day Set Menu, available for P1,250++ per person. It's a Mediterranean Valentine on Feb. 14 at the newly opened Azzurro Bistro & Bar at the Linden Suites in Ortigas Center, Pasig; and Azzurro Bistro & Lounge at Somerset Millennium, Legaspi Village, Makati. Cheese Walnut and Tuna and Apple Crostinis are offered for starters, followed by Cream of Wild Mushrooms Cappuccino soup served with Grissini Stick, and the refreshing Crispy Prawns Salad with Green Mango and Citrus Dressing. The main entrée features these choices: Medallions of Beef with Italian Barolo Red Wine sauce served with Creamed French Gratin Dauphinoise; Chicken Saltimbucca, a tempting fillet of chicken wrapped in parma ham and parmesan; or Pan-Grilled Seabass D'Jour served with creamed spinach risotto. For desserts: a choice of Azzurro Signature (the restaurant's very own mousse cake covered with Lindt chocolate icing) or La

\* Collection (a combination of three signature desserts). Of course, a dinner of good old Mediterranean flavors will never be complete without wine. For Valentine's Day, a free glass of Gran Tierra Spanish Red or White Wine from Titania Wine Cellar awaits you, making the occasion all the more special. Call 6371440 or 6387878 locals 8448 and 8447 (Azzurro at The Linden Suites), or 8842239 (Azzurro Somerset Millenni-

ILUSTRADO Restaurant offers Tea for Two. Hot savories, assorted sandwiches and mini-desserts with a pot of tea will be available. For Valentine, couples will also get to take home mini heartshaped, mocha-buttercream cake. A surprise gift comes with a bottle of Chateau La Gordonne, a Cotes de Provence rose from the wine portfolio of Future Trade International. Call 5273674 to 75 or 5272345.

MEZZE RESTAURANT AND BAR at Greenbelt 2, Makati offers a special Valentine menu prepared by chefs Carlo Estagle and Christine Zarandin. On Feb. 13-15, Mezze will be serving a full-course dinner. Starter is Symphony of Salmons consisting of Salmon Tournedos Cold-Poached over Minted Tabouli, Cilantro Salmon in Seaweed Parcel draped with Raw Quail Egg, and Terrine of Smoked Salmon and Asparagus with Arugula Pesto. This is followed by an original fruit-andcheese salad medley, Orchard Interlude, (Apples, Walnuts, Mesclun Mix with Roquefort Blue Cheese and Morel Mushroom Galantine). The main entrée is Steak Sonata with Aquarian Aria, a combo of Angus Rib-Eye Steak with Rosemary Potato Gratin and Bone Marrow, paired with Pan-Roasted Chilean Sea Bass in Prosciutto Crust served with Wild Mushroom Risoto and Basil-Tomato Fondue. For dessert, diners may choose between Strawberries and Cream Rose Cake and Chocolate Aphrodisia with Nougat Glace. The dinner is P1,888 per person inclusive of a glass of wine. Call 7288896 to 96 or send an SMS to 0915-5175994.

FRENCH BAKER celebrates Valentine's Day with Mango Almond Pastry. Made with almond pow-



**UCC's Seafood** Soup Spaghetti

der, coconut flour and rich cream, this charming treat is topped by the freshest mango, strawberry or red cherry and chocolate curl. Captivate your beloved's heart with this luscious delight and celebrate love in all its sweetness. Complete your pastry love affair with The French Baker's all-time favorite treats: scones, crepes, muffins and cream puffs. Exclusively available at The French Baker's 30 outlets in and around Metro Manila and in Pampanga, Dasmariñas, and Metro Cebu.

UCC COFFEE shops will be giving away a heartshaped balloons with promo coupons to diners until Feb. 14. Visit UCC outlets on Valentine's Day and present your coupons to get free cup coffee when you order any entree in the menu

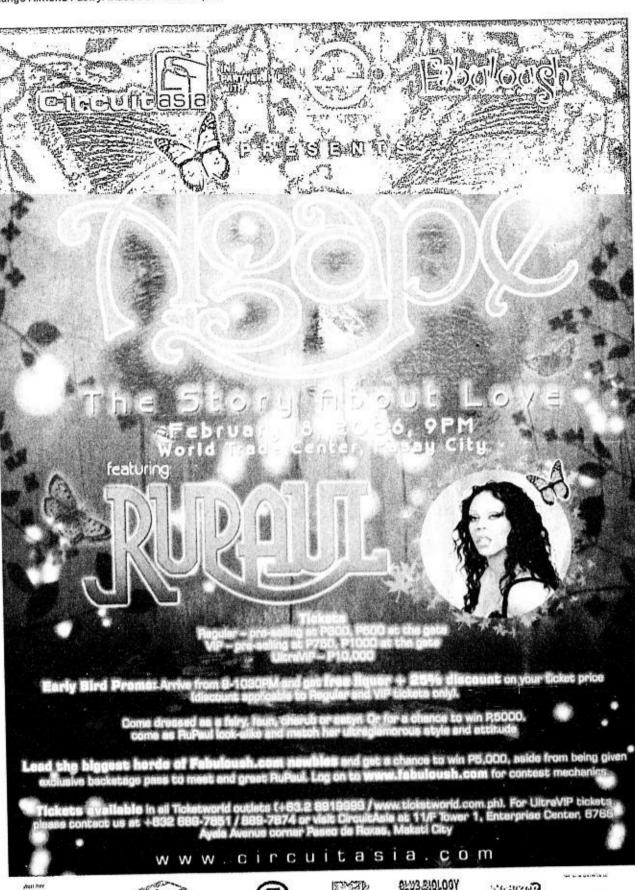
SWEET concoctions for a one-of-a-kind Valentine's dinner at Mandarin Café & Deli at Gateway Mall

#### **SUNDAY CROSSWORD**

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# der saver days uoermalls



Three big days of super buys await shoppers at SM City Sta. Mesa and SM Supercenter Valenzuela on Feb. 17, 18, and 19. The 3 DAY SALE event offers up to 50% discount on a broad selection of merchandise including apparel, fashion accessories, home furnishings, baby basics, sporting goods,





**DRAW SCHEDULE** (Sta. Mesa & Valenzuela) 9pm, Sunday Feb. 19

As an additional value offer to mallers, SM City Sta. Mesa and SM Supercenter Valenzuela are giving away 10 JVC XA-HD500 Digital Audio Players per mall as take-home prizes for the raffle event!

Every P500 single or accumulated purchase at SM Department Store, SM Supermarket, Super SM Hypermarket, or from any participating mall establishment entitles shoppers to join the raffle.

- · SM Food Court-Customer gets one raffle coupon for every P150 single or accumulated purchase.
- SM Cinema Customer gets one raffle coupon for every single purchase of four cinema tickets.
- · Amusement Centers -Customer gets one raffle coupon for every P100 single purchase of token/s.



Experience the new SM Cinemas. Its luxurious seating, great sounds and wide screen facilities invite mallers to relax and enjoy the latest movies in airconditioned comfort.



Join the "JUICY MEALS, JUICY DEALS!" promo (on-going until February 26) when you dine at SM Food Court. Offering a variety of specialty food counters, SM FoodCourt is the Ideal place to take time out from bargain hunting and replenish your energy before you shop some more in the mall.

**PARADIZOO** 

giant blooms with packaging

886-7519

MANDY NAVASERO



AYALACENTER

chronos LLUCERNE MTIMESTUDIO

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0164, Series of 2006

Asia's hottest fantasy online game!



SEDUCTION is in the mind with this divan (left) strewn with the red blooms of Cock's Comb. If he is too dense to get the message, a casually draped lingerie item by J. Lo promises something more than just wine and dinner. For the person who prefers four-legged devotion to fickle human affection, a small round table (right) is set to hold treats for

ur own romantic space

: Home is where the heart is, indeed

Text by Linda B. Bolido Photos by Romy Homillada

ITH THE COST of things as they are-driven even higher by E-vat despite assurances to the contrary by the government-many people may be thinking of scaling

of parking spaces. For the practical souls out there who want to make Valentine's Day special, there are ways to have a romantic tete à tete or to strengthen family love in the privacy and comfort of your own nome.

Stylist Rachy Cuna, using furniture and accessories from Crossings at Shangri-La Plaza Mall on Shaw Boulevard, offers some ideas on how to enjoy a love-filled Valentine's Day with-

down their expressions

no object, only the most incurably romantic (and those desperate to

impress) will put up with the has-

sle of booking a table for lunch or

dinner on Valentine's Day, not to

mention the traffic and shortage

Even for those to whom price is

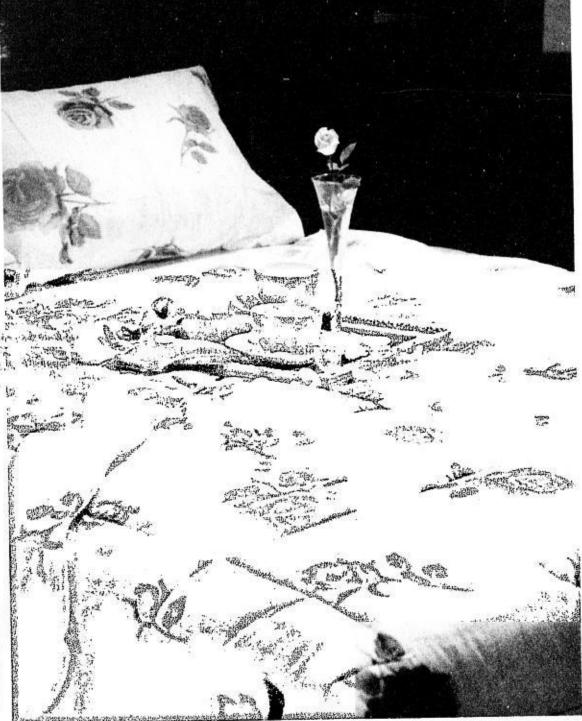
of love and affection.







table setting of imported china, choice silverware and capiz placemats. A simple arrangement of pink anthuriums and crystal animal pieces provide the finishing touches.



NEWLYWEDS or "old" married couples can keep romance and passion vibrant by sharing a romantic late Valentine breakfast or early dinner on a bed of roses.



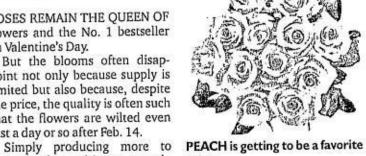
FOR something different, a yellow and white bouquet

By Serapion S. Metilla Contributor

ROSES REMAIN THE QUEEN OF flowers and the No. 1 bestseller on Valentine's Day.

But the blooms often disappoint not only because supply is imited but also because, despite the price, the quality is often such that the flowers are wilted even just a day or so after Feb. 14.

meet the demand is not enough.



Arnold Andaya, vice president operations, said the glasshouses, equipped with the most advanced technology in the country today, were designed according to its location to enhance aeration, humidity, light, temperature and performance.

coloration.

Tagaytay City.

Panganiban.

Good-quality blooms are indicated by perfect form, long vase life, long stems, leathery texture and vibrant coloration. A good plant should be floriferous, capable of blooming all year round.

Carrying the brand Islandroses, the different varieties pro-



duced at the company are Osiana, an elegant peach; Texas, a vibrant golden-yellow; Noblesse, salmon-pink; the most popular, the thornless Grand Gala, with thick stems and dark red color; Lambada, a unique bright orange; Red Giant, with straight stems, thick foliage and long vase life; Salsa, deep orange and large buds much appreciated when in full bloom; Vivaldi, light pink; Christine, yellow with long thick stems and strong buds; Tineke, creamy white with big buds, nice thick

stems and good vase life; Gloria, immaculate white, perfect for weddings; and Red France, popular in Europe with vibrant red buds and moderate stem thickness.

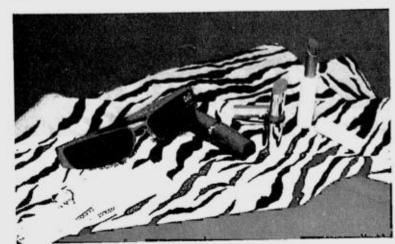
Islandroses, which also export, is considered by many flower shop operators to have the best roses in the country today.

Call 8163091 or visit www.islandrose.com.ph. Large orders have to be made at least three months in advance.

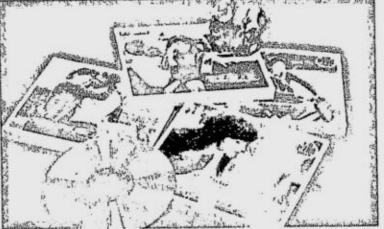


RED Giant variety of roses is grown in the 4,000-sq m glass greenhouse.

## Sunday LIFESTYLE



CHECK out makeup sets, accessories and other gift ideas at Robinsons Department Store.



REAFFIRM your love by giving your special someone a CD of songs you both love and want to dance to. Available at Robinsons.



BRING on a smile with a beautiful arrangement of classic red roses with select foliage from The Flower Farm.



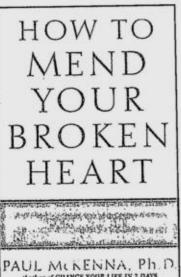
Valentine's provides the best occasion for the best gifts. Professions of love require the best tokens of expressions. Here are some timely, tasteful suggestions



SAYING it sweetly. Heart-shaped balloons with Samba chocolates from SM



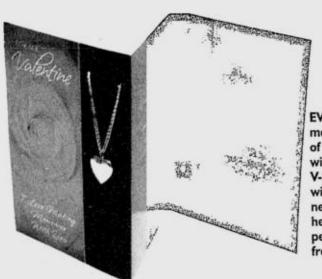
THE TIMEX Perpetual Calendar Watch (left) and the Timex Ironman Triathlon Watch-both must-haves for active men,



HUGH WILL BOURN, PL D



READ your way to kitchen romance or emotional recovery with these life-affirming books, available at National Book Store.



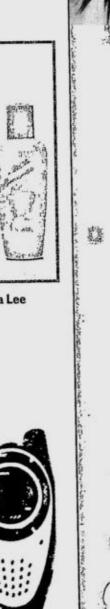
**EVOKE** memories of love with this V-Day card with silver necklace and heart-shaped pendant from SM.



EXPRESS your sweet side with A Little Romance from Sara Lee Direct Selling.

MAGIC Sing Silver/Magic Sing duet mic (left) and Cobra

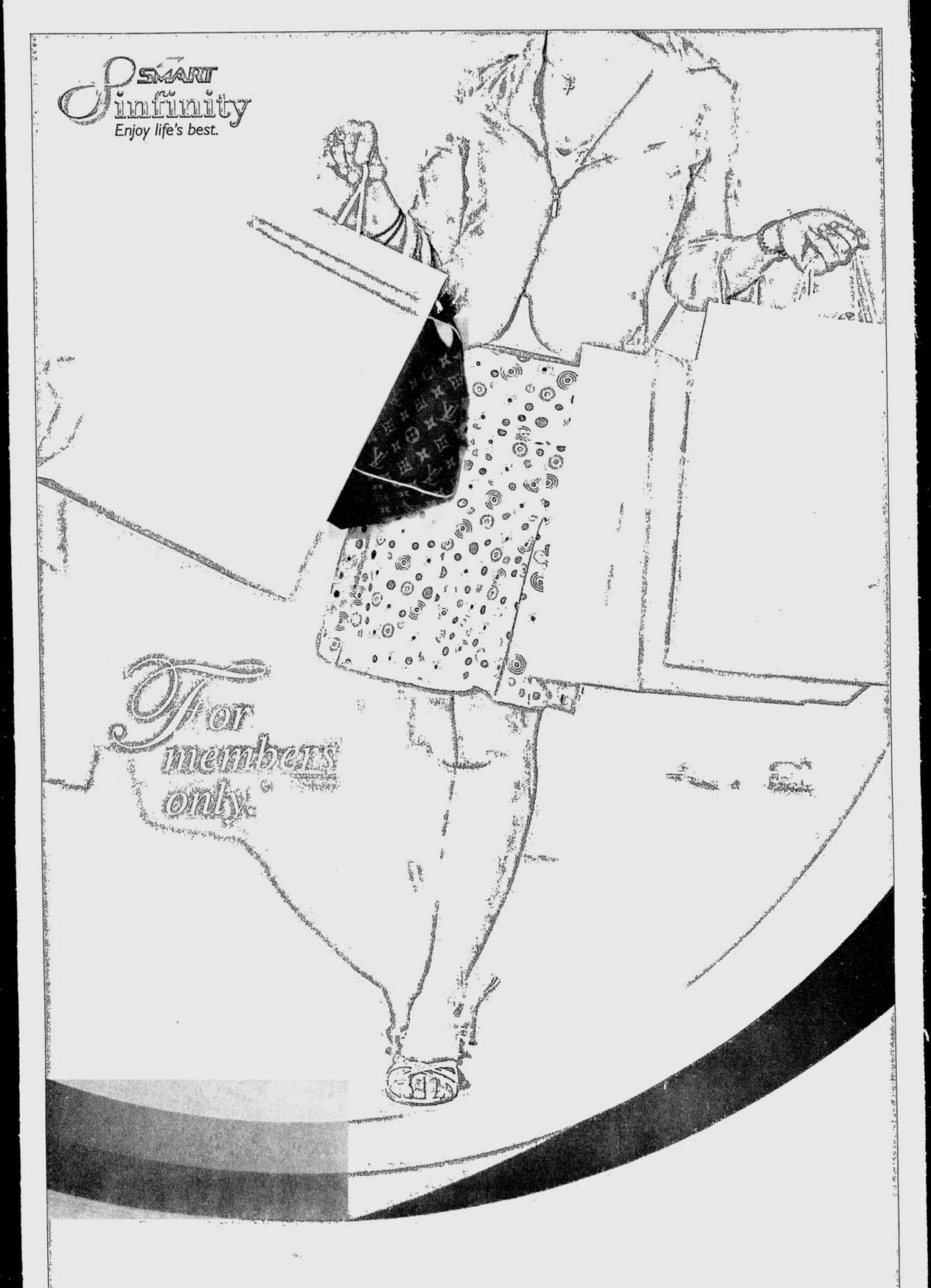
two-way radio





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## This Valentine season, SMART Infinity cardholders can enjoy great discounts at Rustan's.

Just present your SMART Infinity Privilege Card and get up to 70% discount on selected items. Contact your Infinity Management Officer or dial \*800 for details. Subscribe to SMART Infinity at the SMART Wireless Center nearest you today.

- Subscribe to SMART Infinity and enjoy:

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   An International Concierge Service simply by dialling 63-SMART (63-76278).

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Text us your feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



# Lost and happily found

A DOCTOR AFFILIATED WITH ST. LUKE'S Medical Center made time one Sunday to attend a friend's wedding. The reception was held at the grand ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental Manila. He chatted with friends, had a quick dinner, posed for a photo with the newlyweds, then headed out after an hour. At about 11 p.m. at home, he noticed his mobile phone was missing, a good 21/2 hours after he had left the ballroom. He must have left the phone on the table at the reception, he thought, so he dialed the Mandarin trunk line.

Raise your hand if you think he got it back.

What? No hands? In a random poll of cell-phone users, the number of respondents who said that it was highly unlikely the young doctor

would recover his cellphone was twice the number of those who said he might get it back if he were extremely, extremely lucky.

The naysayers cannot be blamed. Everyday you read in the news about lowlifes who make a living out of snatching Nokias and selling them to tiangge used-phone vendors.

These days, pickpockets are no longer interested in your wallet. They'd rather take your newfangled Sony Ericsson, especially if they've espied that it's the classy type that comes with a superb camera.

So if people are forcibly stealing cell phones, even stabbing resisting victims, how can you even entertain the idea that a maître d', a waitress or a busboy who finds a phone on a table in a crowded hotel ballroom will return it to its owner?

But that was what happened the night Dr. Martin Magsanoc lost his mobile

The hotel switchboard operator, Mylene Ondo, upon getting a description of the missing phone (a Nokia 1100) and the number of the table at which Magsanoc was earlier seated (No. 36), informed head waiter Carlos Rejoso.

Instead of asking someone else to go look in the ballroom, Rejoso himself went and spotted the phone where Magsanoc said he must have left it. The head waiter turned over the phone to guest services managers Oliver Esquerra and Martin Lanuza, who then informed the hotel oper-

It took only five minutes-that short and sweet- before Magsanoc got the.

good news from the operator that yes, they found his phone. He then sent his driver over to the Mandarin with his Professional Regulations Commission card and a letter authorizing the bearer to retrieve his phone.

"Now that's service," says Magsanoc, who thinks that it wouldn't have mattered if his phone was a more expensive model or if he wasn't a doctor. In the Mandarin universe, he still would have gotten his

Yes, that's Service! It reflects the hotel's excellent personnel training: Do not waste time in finding whatever a guest loses. It also speaks of individual integrity, something we are in dire need of these days. And it makes for damn good news. Please









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2 winners P 20.000 worth of shopping credits each!



3 winners of Movie Passes at Avala Cinemas worth

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Shop in Ayala Malls using your BPI Express Credit Card for a chance to win a Nissan Patrol 4x4 in the Grand Draw and fabulous prizes in the Monthly Draws.



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Call abroad for less than a local call."

A Permanent Service to all Sun subscribers. For Postpaid, enroll through Sun Shops or call 200

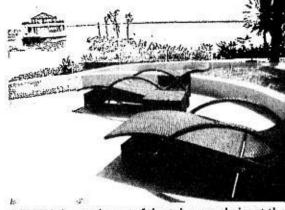
IN starting on the FIRST minute to the TOP 10 destinations!



## SundayLIFESTYLE



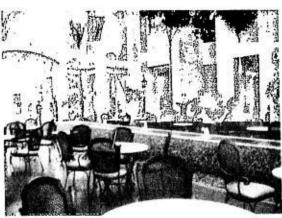
THE END of the wharf with panoramic views of the sea and outlying islands



RELISH the sun in one of these lounge chairs at the



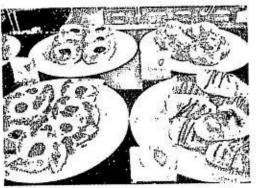
VANILLA Beach Café offers local, regional and Mediterranean food.



THE PINK Lobby lounge and bar serves savories, snacks, java, tea and lifestyle beverages along with signature Pink cocktails.



EAT your meals al fresco at the Vanilla Beach Café.



THE FAMOUS Hilton breads, baked fresh

In the Ollak of indulgence

Cebu's

Hilton

Resort

and Spa

beckons

to world-

travelers

with its

attractions

sinful

weary

T'S WHEN TIME STOPS THAT you know your vacation has begun. It could be anywhere—at a hammock on your backyard or the start of a two-day trip to Baguio.

Text and photos by Ruth L. Navarra

But any diehard beach bum would say there's nothing like entering the surfer's state of mind. Indeed, what could be more romantic or relaxing than the sound of waves breaking the silence, the wind stroking your hair, and the sun kissing your skin?

One of the advantages of being in a tropical country is that no matter what time of the year it is, the sea is almost always welcoming. There are numerous destinations to choose from. But Cebu just made itself a little harder to resist with the opening of Hilton Resort and Spa.

At first glance, what sets Cebu Hilton apart from the rest of the hotels in Mactan Island is its color. It comes in the most shocking corral pink. But chair Manuel Osmeña (not related to the political Osmeñas) has a good explanation for this choice of hue.

"My favorite place in the world is the French Riviera. Buildings there are painted with lively colors like this," he says. "My constructors and I worked so hard for months to achieve this shade of pink, but to no success."

Not inclined to give up, Osmeña asked a friend who was vacationing in the Riviera to chip a piece of a house there. And the rest, as they say, is history.



After the color, what you would remember next about the resort is the service and the memorable little details. Beyond the required smiles, the members of the staff take time to remember your name—not very easy if you have to serve guests of all 246 rooms.

After a room cleanup, they also leave complimentary sweets and fresh fruits. The towels and robe are 100-percent cotton with jacquard weaving.

"We value our customers. If you have any complaints, even the smallest ones, just approach the lobby and we'll take care of it for you," Osmeña says.

The rooms will tempt you to just laze on the bed, watch some DVDs borrowed from the front desk and spend the whole day daydreaming.

But why do that when there's an infinity pool

waiting for you to dip in? There's the white sand and the sea asking you to frolic in them. You can windsurf, jet ski, dive and snorkel, or you can allot a day for island-hopping.

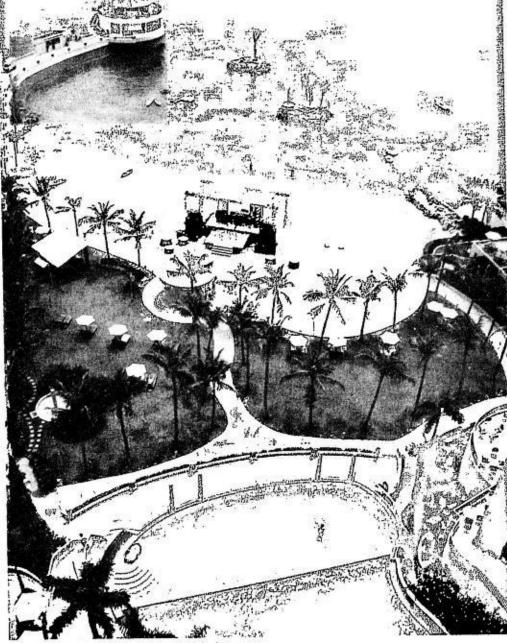
If stress from work still weighs you down,

head to the spa and enjoy the pampering you deserve. If you have kids, the resort also has activities especially for them.

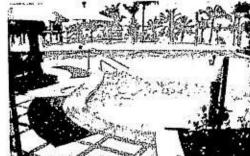
#### Freshly squeezed

To assuage those pangs of hunger, there are five restaurants and bars to choose from. In the morning, discover what an event breakfast could be.

When you enter the Vanilla Beach Café, the first thing that would welcome you is the scent of the freshly baked bread Hilton is popular for. The orange juice is freshly squeezed and not



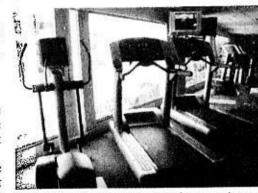
BREATHTAKING view from your window



PRACTICE your strokes at the infinity pool.



THE SPA



SHAKE that booty at the hotel gym and get rid of some of the fats you've acquired.

FOR P500,
you can take
home Sebu,
the official
mascot of the
hotel. Some
the proceeds
will go to the
conservation
of Cebu's
marine life.

something brought out of the bottle or carton.

Each dish is color-coded according to your preference, whether it's low fat and low calorie, low cholesterol, low cholesterol, hi-energy, high fiber or big time (their way of saying "to heck with labels"). This means that whatever diet you're following—South Beach, Atkins, love yourself—there's something for you in the buffet.

Another interesting food you might want to try is the Wagyu Beef Burger, available at the Manny O's Wine & Tapas. This is probably the most expensive burger you'd ever sink your teeth into, as it costs more than P1,000. And it's not always on the menu.

Why the steep price? Because the cooks have to prepare the cow for six months before it gets slaughtered. After that, the beef is massaged in a very "special way." Hmmm...

If you've had enough indulgences, you can attempt to shed some recently acquired pounds in the gym, steam room and tennis court. But why bother? Indulgence is the whole point of perfect vacations, right?

Hilton Cebu Resort and Spa is at Punta Engaòo, Mactan Island. Call (332) 4927777 or (392) 4927707. E-mail cebu@hilton.com or visit www.hilton.com/worldwideresorts

SOME rooms provide you a personal spa butler who will do all the scheduling worries for you. You can have the masseuse sent up to your room.

BEFORE your massage, take a dip in the jacuzzi sprinkled with rose

#### TRAVELBRIEFS

## Go places with this card

ROBINSONS RETAIL GROUP AND Cebu Pacific have teamed up with Metrobank Card Corporation (MCC) to launch a credit card that offers a comprehensive rewards system like no other.

The Go! MasterCard has several components. The Go! Rewards program awards one point for every P200 spent using the card in locations where MasterCard is accepted, and double points if used at Robinsons Department Store, Robinsons Supermarket, Robinsons Appliances, Handyman Do It Best and Handyman Do It Center, Topshop and Topman, Dorothy Perkins, Wallis and Cebu Pacific ticket offices and in the Cebu Pacific website (cebupacificair.com).

The Go! Rewards points may then be exchanged for a Go! Cash Gift Card that can be used to purchase a variety

of items from Robinsons retail establishments or to purchase a Cebu Pacific ticket.

The Go! Cash Gift Card is a more fun and flexible way of choosing the rewards, rather than choosing from a limited catalogue offering. Frequent travelers will particularly appreciate the conversion of their Go! Points for payment of Cebu Pacific tickets. With enough points, they can even fly for free.

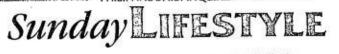
In addition to enjoying exclusive privileges, including advance sale alerts and special gifts from Robinsons Retail establishments, and getting the Gol Fares from Cebu Pacific, the Gol Master-Card holder is also entitled to a convenient installment program with low interest rates and flexible payment terms from numerous establishments.

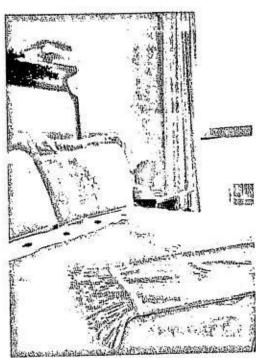
On top of this, transferring outstanding balances from other credit cards is more convenient as the Go! Balance Transfer program offers low interest rates as well.

The contract signing at Crowne Plaza had Lance Gokongwei, president and CEO of Robinsons and Cebu Pacific, and Anne Young, Metrobank Card Corporation president, doing the honors. Also present were Robinsons Group GM for Robinsons Retail Group Robina Gokongwei-Pe, Robinsons Department Store general manager Graham Coates, Robinsons Supermarket GM Jody Gadia, Handyman GM Johnson Go, Cebu Pacific GM Bong Mojica, MCC vice chair Anjie Dy-Buncio and MCC first vice president for marketing and sales Aloy Alday.



BONG Mojica, Cebu Pacific general manager and COO; Robina Gokongwei-Pe, group general manager of Robinsons Retail Group; Anne Young, Metrobank Card Corp. president; Anjie Dy-Bunclo, Metrobank Credit Card Corp. vice chair; Lance Gokongwei, Robinsons Retail Group president and CEO; Graham Coates, general manager, department store, Robinsons Retail Group





**CREATE** beautiful Valentine memories at Discovery Suites

# Sweet love nests

TAFT TOWER HOTEL offers special packages for Valentine's Day: dinner and deluxe room with breakfast for two for P2,500; dinner and corner suite with breakfast for two for P3,000; room only with breakfast at P900 per person; and twin share dinner at P500 per person. Call 3026418/6419.

HYATT HOTEL AND CASINO offers Weekend Package with exclusive access to Regency Club with breakfast for two. For couples, there's a Romancing Spa treatments.

CROWNE PLAZA presents a special Valentine room package Romancing at the Crowne, until Feb. 14. It includes an overnight stay in a deluxe room, buffet breakfast for two, romantic dinner at the Seven Corners and a bottle of wine. The first 15 couples to book will receive special gift packs from Suriya Spa. The package is at P6500++. Call 6337222.

DISCOVERY SUITES offers Suite Valentine/Private Valentine package that includes an overnight stay and dinner for two at the Serendipity Lounge or in the privacy of your suite. The package is at P5,500++ for a Junior Suite and My Private Valentine at P6,300++ for a One-Bedroom Suite. Call 6838222.

DISCOVERY COUNTRY SUITES in Tagaytay presents Romance Packages at P9,500++ for a deluxe suite with six-course dinner for two and a complimentary CD of love songs. Sumptuous Bliss, an exquisite six-course menu available at Restaurant Verbena for P2,800++ per couple. The room packages and special set menu are available until Feb. 14. Call 6838383 or (046)4134567.

THE PENINSULA MANILA offers five-course dinner menu at Old Manila, for P3,500++ (adult) including a red rose and box of Peninsula chocolates for ladies, from 6:30-11:30 p.m. Lobby dinner buffet is also open from 6:30-10 p.m. There's a three-course dinner at Mi Piace, a la carte menu at Spices and dinner buffet at Nielsen's. Call 8872888 local 2205.

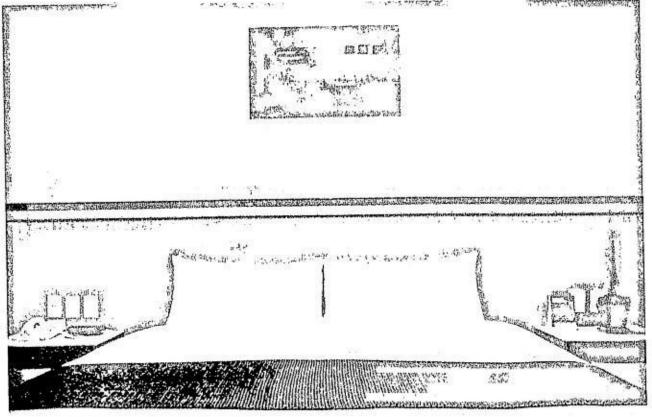
THE HERITAGE HOTEL offers Heritage Grand Buffet for P1,500 net per person with a complimentary glass of wine. Hearty specialties include Roast Beef with Prawn Stuffing, Lamb with Spinach in Phyllo Pastry, Classic Paella with Shellfish and Chicken, Grilled Tuna Steak with Corn Salsa, Steamed Chicken with Mushroom and Ham, among others. Dinner is from 6:30-10:30 p.m. Call 8548888.

THE TOWER CLUB Continental Restaurant offers six-course dinner inclusive of a glass of Moet & Chandon champagne per person, roses for ladies and heart-shaped three-layered (milk, dark and white) pralines made of pure Belgian chocolate.

SHANGRI-LA'S MACTAN ISLAND RESORT & SPA offers a Valentine's Day package. The presidential suite is at the ocean wing offering a view of the ocean and neighboring islands of Cebu. Elegantly furnished and decorated, it has a spacious master's bedroom, receiving area, separate dining hall with kitchen and a business desk. Butler service is available anytime of the day. A romantic dinner at the Paradise Island consists of Mango Champagne Mimosa, Salad of Arugula, Sweet Red Onion and Orange Segments with Strawberry Balsamic Vinaigrette, Parmesan and Sundried Tomato-Crusted Salmon with Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Warm Chocolate Bread Pudding with Brandy Cream Sauce. The service includes champagne breakfast in bed and a stay in one of private villas at Chi Spa for a Yin Yang Couple's Massage. The Valentine package is available from Feb. 13-15. Call 2310288.



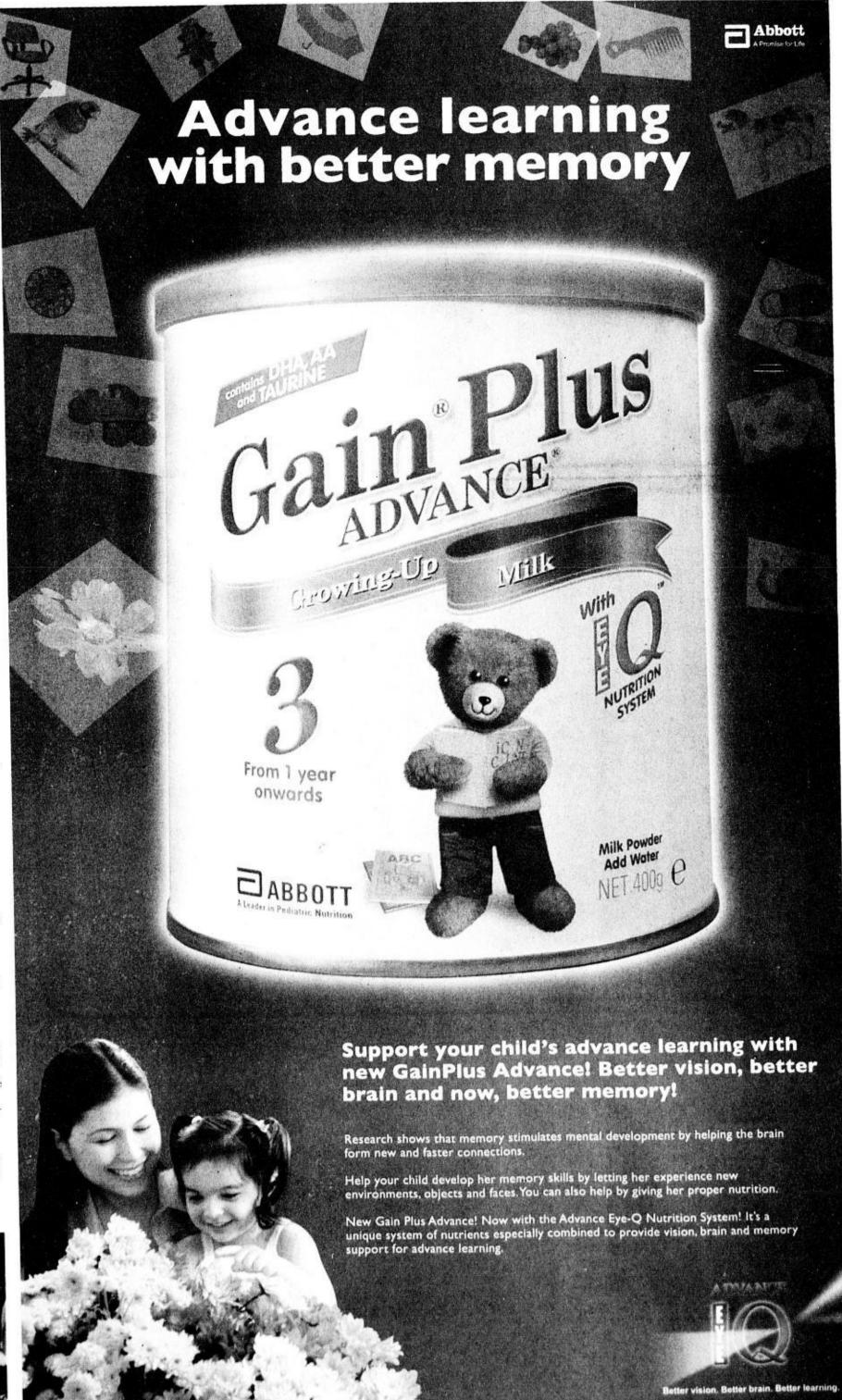
HAVE a romantic dinner at Hyatt



ROMANCE at Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila's deluxe room

#### ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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VERED SPEAKER

samick

## Sunday LIFESTYLE **Postscripts**

COUPLES WO brought together through letters to Emily's Post. For Valen-

tine, we tell their happy endings:

#### Love lost and found

Dear Emily,

PRO AUDIO

A52883E

(Published Oct. 2, 2005)

A few years ago in Boston, while doing my post-graduate studies, I shared a condo with two very nice Filipinos, a man and a woman, who were cousins .... I thought (Lawrence, the man) was such a cool brother, a soulmate and a very good friend...I did not realize he had fallen for me ..

Last month, I met the woman in Singapore and she gave me her cousin's (contact numbers) and e-mail address. He is now a head

honcho of a big telecom company.... He had not married and she said he still often mentioned my name. She even joked that she believed I was the cause of her cousin's

ARIANNE

#### EMILY'S Post



Emily A. Marcelo

Through this column, readers find a second chance at love and happiness

(A few weeks later, Arianne sent this news:)

Dear Emily,

I didn't realize how popular your column was until now. Loren (the female cousin) read my letter and your advice and immediately showed it to Lar, as he is fondly called by family members.

Lar tracked me down...and had five dozens roses delivered (to me) with a note to meet him for lunch... We both came early because I guess we were too excited to finally meet. I won't bother you with details but we will be together this Christmas in Melbourne.... Lar made me promise I would never leave him again. And he promised he would make me happy and take care of me.

#### To love again

Dear Emily,

(Published March 20, 2005)

My husband and I separated...after I got fed up with all his indiscretions. He had affairs with my 17-year-old niece, the office re-ceptionist and, later, the office manager. He even had flings with very young girls....

I have dual citizenship and got a divorce years ago....There's a dear friend who is so wonderful to me. He has a very good job abroad. We see each other often because of my constant traveling. We are in close touch by e-mail and phone calls.

He knows all my problems and I know his. When his wife left him seven years ago, I was the first person he called. When his sister died, he came to me directly from the airport.

I learned of his feelings for me when I read an e-mail he wrote to a (mutual) friend. The email said basically that I'd been the woman for him-and that I'd crowded his marriage and his other relationships all these years. He is in love with me, but isn't sure what I feel about him ....

I've been through so much pain that I don't want to be in love or married again.

(An unpublished private letter from the sister of Lin's suitor:)

Ms Emily,

(My baby brother Andrew) had loved (Lin) for so long and I believe you advised her to go for it, be with him. I am grateful because she did fly to Korea and they have been spending weekends together since.

Andrew is coming home in June and I want to gift them a two-week vacation in Amanpulo. Lin is a shy, unassuming lady with traditional Filipino values....Do you think she will accept my gift?

I know Andrew will be ecstatic but I don't want to offend Lin and lose her friendship. She is a close friend and ally, and our family loves her dearly. She does not discuss her new relationship with Andrew at all.

I'd love for her to be my sister-in-law but...she does not want to get married again. It is very clear though that she has fallen hard for our Andrew. She calls him, sends him things, worries about him and she just glows whenever his name is mentioned .... I so want her to be committed to Andrew. They are beautiful together.

MI-RAE

(Lin's reaction to Mi-Rae's offer:)

Dear Ms Emily,

I thank you and Mi-Rae with all my heart. The Amanpulo gift sounds good but the thought of Andrew's caring family thinking of our happiness is truly wonderful.

...What can I say to Mi-Rae's obvious intentions? She's priceless and I love her dearly. Yes, I was with Andrew all this time.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

# Call abroad for low, low charges

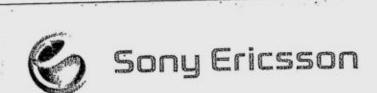
STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR LOVED ones across the miles this Valentine's through Sun Cellular's IDD Top 10. For only US\$0.10 per minute, you can say "I love you" to your significant other while enjoying unhurried, longer talk time for a fraction of what you would ordinarily pay for IDD calls.

In fact, using IDD Top 10 will cost you less than a local Sun call to other networks. So you need not fret about exces-

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To avail of this service, postpaid subscribers simply need to enroll by calling 200 or visiting the Sun shops, while prepaid subscribers can purchase P100 credits via call cards, e-PINs, SMS and The Mall. IDD Top 10 is a permanent service to all Sun Cellular subscribers.

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BEING able to regularly call his wife in the US makes the distance more bearable for Rey de

# I just called to say

By Anne A. Jambora

FILIPINOS WHO SORELY MISS their loved ones and want to reach out this Valentine's Day will be happy to learn that, finally, there's a phone card that allows you to stretch that hard-earned peso when making IDD, NDD or local calls. With IDD low P4.50/minute and NDD at the rock-bottom rate of P1/minute.

Globel, Innove Communication Inc.'s first PIN-based prepaid call card, addresses the growing OFW community by offering the country's lowest IDD rate. A P100 prepaid call card allows you to talk overseas for 22 minutes. For longer talk time, a P300 card is also available at all Globe outlets nationwide.

Australia, Canada, China, Hong Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States.

#### Clear lines

Rey de Dios, a 41-year-old resident of Cebu whose wife left for the United States five months ago to seek a job, swears by Globe1 prepaid call cards. A former user of a rival company's prepaid call cards, he says that since shifting to Globe1 he doesn't have to worry about choppy receptions and calls that are abruptly cut off due to poor connection. Redialing for reconnection is now thankfully a thing of the past.

"The lines are very clear it's like talking to somebody next door," De Dios says.

He adds that it now only takes him about 30 seconds to make a call, compared to two to three minutes with the previous company. Even better, De Dios says, Globe1 is cheaper so it permits him to allot a budget for IDD calls at P300-400 per week, placing calls to his wife every other day. When a friend suggested he use Globel last De-



**RUBY Salutan calls her parents** in the US.

cember, the overjoyed De Dios immediately consumed P600-700 worth of prepaid call cards on Christmas Day alone.

#### Cebu to California

Another Cebu-based businesswoman, Cebu Furniture Industries Foundation executive director Ruby Salutan, talks to her parents in Southern California at least an hour every month through Globel. And, believe it or not, this executive asks from her parents the most typical of things children often request, such as a balikbayan box or an iPod.

"I can talk to my parents more frequently now since [Globe1] offers more value for my money,"

Today Salutan also uses Globe1 to call her many clients abroad, confirming and reconfirming business deals and organizing international fares. She used to place IDD calls through operator-assisted or direct-dial services, she says, which cost her The 10 destinations included about P20/minute, but has since in the P4.50/minute IDD rate are shifted to Globe1 when it was introduced to the market December last year.

Salutan also says that with the prepaid call cards she can now manage her calls more swiftly, putting in calls for about 10 minutes per client. You're in control, she says, and the reception is very clear, "parang local call lang." Her previous telephone server, she says, often has "scratchy" signal.

Housewife and direct seller Dina Cuaca misses her eldest daughter Laviña who left home six months ago to work in a manufacturing industry in Taiwan. Together with her self-employed photographer husband, she tries as hard as she can to make both ends meet to support two other children still under their care.

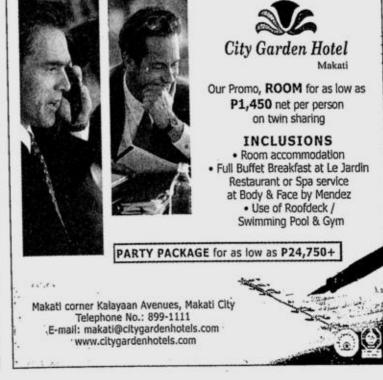
Cuaca used to talk to her daughter through webcam at the neighborhood Internet café. This mother only communicates with Laviña on her day off for worry of waking up her roommates. Laviña works the graveyard shift, says Cuaco, who would rather let her daughter get a much-needed morning's rest than interrupt it with a call.

"Mas nakakatipid," says Cuaca, who now calls her daughter once a week. "Mas maganda pa rin makarinig ng tinig ng anak mo sa malayo."

Make calls from any post- or prepaid Globelines landline and payphone, Globe Handyphone and Touch Mobile to any landline or mobile carrier here and abroad. Enjoy the lowest IDD rate from any Globelines landline or payphone. The regular IDD rate of \$0.40 applies to calls made through cell phones and those dispatched to countries not included in the list.

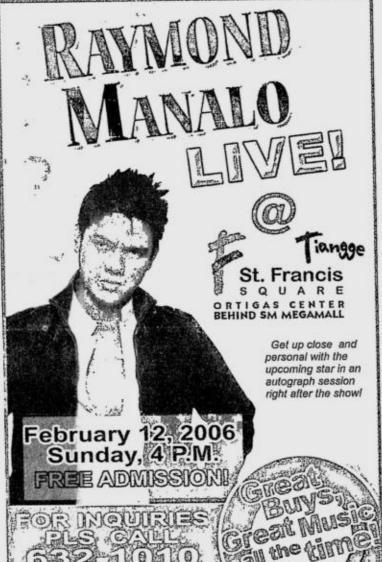
E-mail the author at ajambora@ inquirer.com.ph





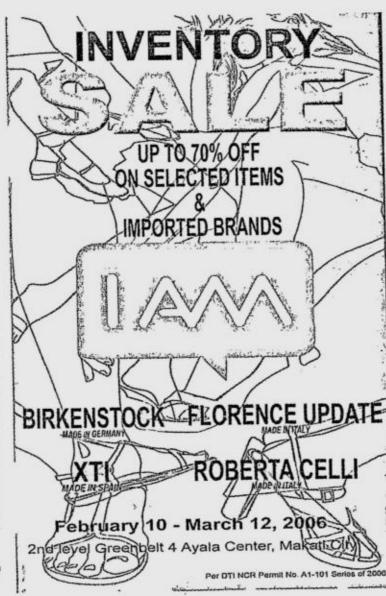
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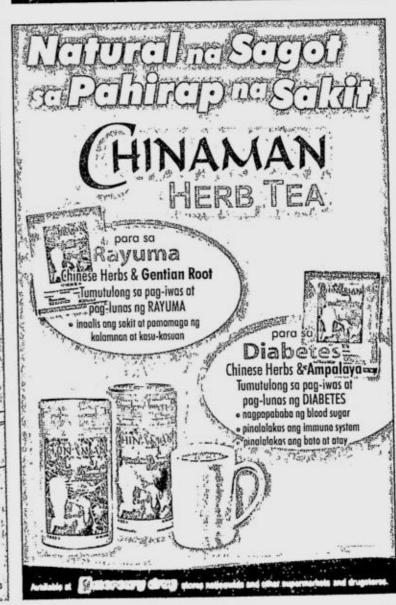
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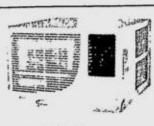












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## Sunday LIFESTYLE



**NEWLYWEDS** with their principal sponsors

#### PACLARIN-PEPITO NUPTIALS

# December wedding apo 10-year romance

ONE SPECIAL DAY IN DECEMBER, Jelen Paclarin and José Antonio Pepito pledged to love one another in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad.

It was the culmination of 10 years of courtship and romance.

The bride is the daughter of Jaime and Belen Paclarin while the groom is the son of José and Ma. Nieves Pepito.

Zenaida Elepaño, professor Maureen Pagaduan, Edith Bondoc, Milagros Leal, Pasciencia Canzana, Ana Maria Balayon, Romeo Canzana, lawyer Francisco Paredes, Col. Rodolfo Silva, lawyer Manuel Satuito, lawyer Francisco Ancheta Jr. and engineer Samuel Cruz.

A dinner reception catered by Josiah's Catering Inc. was held at the Coconut Palace in Cultural Center of the Philippines complex The wedding was held at San Agustin on Roxas Boulevard. JJS Entertainment pro-

Church. Principal sponsors were Justice vided the music for the church ceremony and the reception, including the couple's first

> A three-tiered fondant cake in the wedding motif of hot pink and lime green, topped by miniatures of a couple reading books, was made by Sugar Box.

Dragon Fireworks arranged a fireworks display to coincide with the couple's first

The couple spent their first night as husband and wife at the Manila Diamond Hotel.



NEWLYWEDS Jelen (nee Paclarin) and José Antonio Pepito

# Covenant of love with thrice admirable queen

WHEN FR. JOSEPH KENTENICH founded the Schoenstatt Movement in 1914, he intended it to be a devotion to the Mother Thrice Admirable Queen of

Schoenstatt. It was a "Covenant of Love" with the Blessed Mother by the members of the Marian Sodality in the Chapel of St. Michael in Schoenstatt, Valender, Germany (accessible by train from

Cologne). Father Kentenich, who consecrated himself to Mary when he was 9 years old, encouraged the boys in the Sodality to work at being holy. The boys would bring their "contributions" of sacrifices to her little shrine, so that she might work miracles of grace in men's hearts and thus renew the world.

I first heard about Father Kentenich from international concert pianist Leonor Kilayko who lived in Cologne for 17 years. Every Sept. 15, she would take the train to Valender to visit the tomb of Fr. Kentenich who died on Sept. 15,

Then, in the reception of the Order of Malta in the parish hall of Santuario de San Antonio, I met Christine Maliwat-Golez whose prayers were answered by

the Mother Thrice Admirable Queen of Schoenstatt. Tita Pat Margolles, whose friend Carmen Carag recovered from a stroke by praying to the Virgin, gave her

#### Madonna

Mary Thrice Admirable is a title adopted in 1915 by future members of the Schoenstatt Movement. It serves as name and customary advocation of the Schoenstatt Madonna. She is venerated as "Mother thrice admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt."

The title is multi-valued: Mother of God, Mother of Christ, Mother of all human beings; she is admirable in faith, hope and charity; she was virgin before, in and after the birth of Christ; Child of the Father, Mother of the Son, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, etc.

The title has idiomatic meaning, expressing the unique character of Mary according to the words used by Anselm of Canterbury—"admirably unique and uniquely admirable" (Oratio 52, PL 158, 955). Maybe the best way to explain "thrice admirable" is to say that Mary escapes human understanding and expla-

#### PURELY **PERSONAL**

Josephine



Philippine shrine The first shrine of Our Lady of Schoenstatt in the Philippines was blessed in 2003 by Ricardo Cardinal Vidal with Auxiliary Bishop Julio Cortes officiating in the Eucharistic Benediction. Some 2,000 people gathered at the 3.8-hectare hill in Lawaan III in Talisay, Cebu. Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary from the United States and Australia came for the

Our Lady's Covenant Day is Oct. 18 but, on Valentine's Day, a devotee can make a covenant with her.

#### Tagaytay chapel

Bernardo and Estelita Sajorda built a chapel for Mary Queen of Schoenstatt beside their Little Angels Orphanage on Bonifacio St. in Tagaytay. It can be

reached by taking the Aguinaldo High- mark its 30th anniversary with a Thanksway and turning right on Bonifacio

Just how they were able to build an exact replica of the chapel in Schoen-statt, Germany could only be a miracle. Our Lady wanted it that way.

Bernardo happened to be a first cousin of Sister Angelita Pedro of the Sisters of Schoenstatt in Wisconsin, US. Sister Angelita is the daughter of Mary Abarro Pedro, sister of Bernardo's mother, Teresa Abarro Sajorda.

Sister Angelita gave Bernardo an 8" x 10" color photograph of the Mother Thrice Admirable, which he enthroned in the chapel. She also gave one to her mother who built a chapel in Laoag City.

Christina Golez and friends had estampita prayers printed. Those who want free copies can write to me at PO Box 2050, Manila. Please enclose a selfaddressed stamped envelope. You can have the estampitas scanned to make a 5" x 7" or 8" x 10" image and frame it. Put it on your altar and make your home a shrine of Our Lady under this title.

#### Shrine's anniversary

The National Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Dao Street, Makati will

giving Mass at noon, Feb. 14, to be officiated by Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales.

Past rectors of the shrine are Msgr. Nico Bautista; Fr. Max Ocampo, who is celebrating his 25th year in the shrine; Bishop Tom Yalung; Msgr. Jose Clemente; and Fr. Prex Fajardo, who is on a sabbatical. Msgr. Clem is now in charge.

#### Centennial

The Ilocos Norte High School in Laoag City will mark its centennial Feb. 10-16, during the town fiesta. Lulu Raval-Fong is here from Los Angeles to join members of her Class '64.

#### Valentine gift

Bernadette Yap suggests a Valentine gift that will be a day-to-day reminder that the Lord loves us. Call 9326339 or text 0916-8215982. Happy Valentine to all readers!

Pro-Life Philippines is holding a Human Chain for Life dialogue with pro-life representatives on Feb. 15, a training seminar on post-abortion healing on Feb, 17 and prayer conference on Feb. 18. Call 4217147 or 9ll29ll or visit www.prolife.org.ph

#### LEJARDE-REDUBLA

Gary M. Lejarde and Yyoni A. Redubla were recently married at St. Francis of Assisi Chapel at Fernwood Gardens, Quezon City. The bride is the daughter of the late Aaron Redubla and Wirena Redubla. The groom is the son of Augusto and Narcisa Lejarde. Yyonni wore a white columnar multi-layered chiffon gown with extended train by Ramon Esteban. Event director for the affair was Dodie Roman. A garden reception followed at the courtyard of Fernwood Gardens 1.

ATIENZA-BARRERA Artemio "Jun" Atienza and Joie Barrera will be married on Feb. 18, 6 p.m., at the Mt. Carmel Church. The bride will wear a Ricci Lizaso creation of ecru duchess satin with embellishments of horsehair at the neckline. The bride is the daughter of Alejandrino and Pacita Barrerra while the groom is the son of Artemio Sr. and Benedicta Atienza.



#### Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.



SEMERA-GONZALES Melvin S. Semera, son of engineer Bienvenido and Emelita Semera, and Roselyn T. Gonzales,

daughter of Francisco and Erlinda

wedding vows at the Shrine of Je-

Gonzales, recently exchanged

sus, the Way, the Truth and the

Life. Bishop Teodoro Bacani Jr.

officiated the wedding, together

with Fr. Eric Castro, Fr. Aldrin

and Fr. Clod Bagabaldo. Jackie

Pope John Paul II Youth Center.

Lopez, Fr. Ronald Macale

Rivera designed the bride's

gown. Reception was at

#### DEL POSO-MARCELINO

Remigio G. del Poso Sr. and Lourdes del Poso, will wed Dr. Dorothy P. Marcelino, daughter of Dr. Dominador E. Marcelino, and Linda Marcelino, on Feb. 25, at the Church of the Risen Lord, UP Diliman, Quezon City. Reception will follow at Gazebo Royale, Visayas Ave., QC.

#### Dr. William E. del Poso, son of

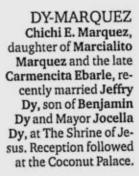


PUA-TAN

Polly Tan, daughter of Doctors Thomas and Rosita Tan will tie the matrimonial knot

with Allen Pua, son of Antonio and Rosalina Pua, on Feb. 26, at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City. Reception follows at the Rizal Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La Plaza.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's ensemble by incorporating the mother of the bride's 15-ft twin-panel train into a strapless gown of ivory Balivia silk. The female entourage will wear gowns in hotpink Thai silk and pleated chiffon.





## The right time for a romantic comedy

LA CONSOLACION COLLEGE MANILA AND Dramatis Personae present William Shakespeare's romantic comedy "Midsummer Night's Dream," 6 p.m., Feb. 13-14, at La Consolacion College Manila, Mendiola. Tickets are available at the gate. Call the LCCM Office of Student Affairs at 3130513 or 7360235.

SWIMWEAR EXPO . The first and only exposition of the latest in intimate and swimwear fashion unfolds on Feb. 18 at the Rockwell Tent, Rockwell Garden, Makati City. "Intima Manila: A Swimwear and Lingerie Event" officially opens at 10 a.m. The event will be highlighted by fashion show featuring some of the country's top models to be directed by Jackle Aquino. Interested parties may log on to http://www.yehey.com/intima or http://www.ClicktheCity.com, or call 6356727 or 0917-858-2342; 6558136 or 0917-**GOINGS ON** 8125057; and 6872015 or 0917-

WORKSHOPS. Nego-skwela and the Star Group of Malls offer free livelihood and cottage industry workshops: pastillas-making, 3 p.m., Feb. 11, G/F atrium of Starmall, Las Piñas City; traditional Thai massage, Feb. 25, at 2/L, Activity Area, Starmall Edsa. Call 7181886 or 8503845.

POSTGRADUATE COURSE. The Department of Pediatrics, Philippine General Hospital, University of the Philippines-Manila, with C.H.I.L.D. Foundation, Inc., will conduct its 39th General Postgraduate Course, "Diseases, Drugs, Decisions," Feb. 16-17, at the Century Park Hotel, Manila. Call 5240892 or 5218450 loc. 2101 or 2107.

CHAMPIONSHIP. The World Muaythai Federation Philippines (WMF-Phils) will hold the 2006 National Muaythai Championship on March 4. All amateur muaythai associations or martial arts clubs are invited. Interested parties should submit club/team profiles, list of participants on or before Feb. 22. Entries must be submitted to WMF-Phils offices at Unit 7-B, Vernida I Bldg., 120 Amorsolo St., Legazpi Village, Makati City, tel./fax 8929176; and JC-159 Beatriz Emporium, La Trinidad, Benguet. Call (074) 4218361, 0916-2289131, 0920-2927588. E-mail wmf.phils@gmail.com

HOMECOMING. The University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Engineering Class 1981, silver jubilarian and host, will hold its 2006 pre-centennial alumni homecoming 6 p.m., Feb. 18, at the Engineering Sports Complex. The homecoming is part of the 99th Foundation Anniversary celebration of the oldest engineering school in the Philippines. For tickets, call 7314041, 5339916, 7313001 or 0919-4462931.

HOMECOMING. The University of Perpetual Help Dalta in Las Piñas will hold its Grand Alumni homecoming 6 p.m., Feb. 25, at the UPHD Auditorium. Call 8710639 loc. 181, 157or 128, and 0920-3396787.

FINALS. Some 30 contestants will vie for the title Mr. & Ms. Sexy Body 2006 at 9 p.m., Feb. 18, at The Brick Road, East Wing Open Carpark, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Marcos Highway cor. Felix Ave., Cainta, Rizal. Over P40,000 worth of cash, gift certificates and other prizes await winners. Call 6815401 loc. 109.

MAKEOVER. Visit "Weddings and Debuts Fair 2006," Feb. 17-19, at SM Megatrade Hall, and get an instant hair makeover by Halrwear Creative

Hair Systems. Hairwear offers an entire range of hair care treatments, services and products that include nonsurgical hair replacement, hair enhancements, hair

and scalp therapy. The shop is at G/F, Francisco Bldg., Timog Avenue, QC. Call 4145957 or 3762427.

MARKET BAZAAR. "Go Green Market and Bazaar" will be held 6 a.m.-11 p.m., Feb. 25-26, at SM Megamall A grounds. The event is sponsored by Fiesta Pacific Tours and Events Inc. and Alternative Lyfstyle Marketing & Consultancy (AlterMktg). The event will feature organic food, eco-friendly products and others. Call 6317520/21, 6555674, 0919-2419131 and 0921-9023525.

ALUMNI HOMECOMING. The Pasay City High School Alumni Association is organizing a grand alumni homecoming 8 a.m.-5 p.m., March 18, at the PCHS, Pasadena cor. F.B. Harrison Sts., Pasay. Call 9319916, 4549143, 8432029 and 9511814.

BAR TOUR. Tabasco, the world-renowned pepper sauce, concludes its eight-leg bar tour, "Yee Haw!!! Burn Survivor." Catch the last two legs of the bar tour at Makati's Absinth, Bistro 110, Il Ponticello, Quisine and Cable Car Feb. 10 and 24. Call

PROMO. Enjoy great discounts when vacationing in Baguio City with Digitel's Digikard and DGMax Prepaid Cards' "Tawag-Lakbay Diskwento" promo available until May 15. The promo is being offered in cooperation with the Baguio Hotel Association, Inc. (BAHAI). Every special edition BAHAI Digikard (in P100 and P300 denominations) and DGMax (in P50 and P100 denominations) prepaid card entitles holder to discounts from BAHAI member establishments of up to 30 percent on accommodations, food, beverage and services.

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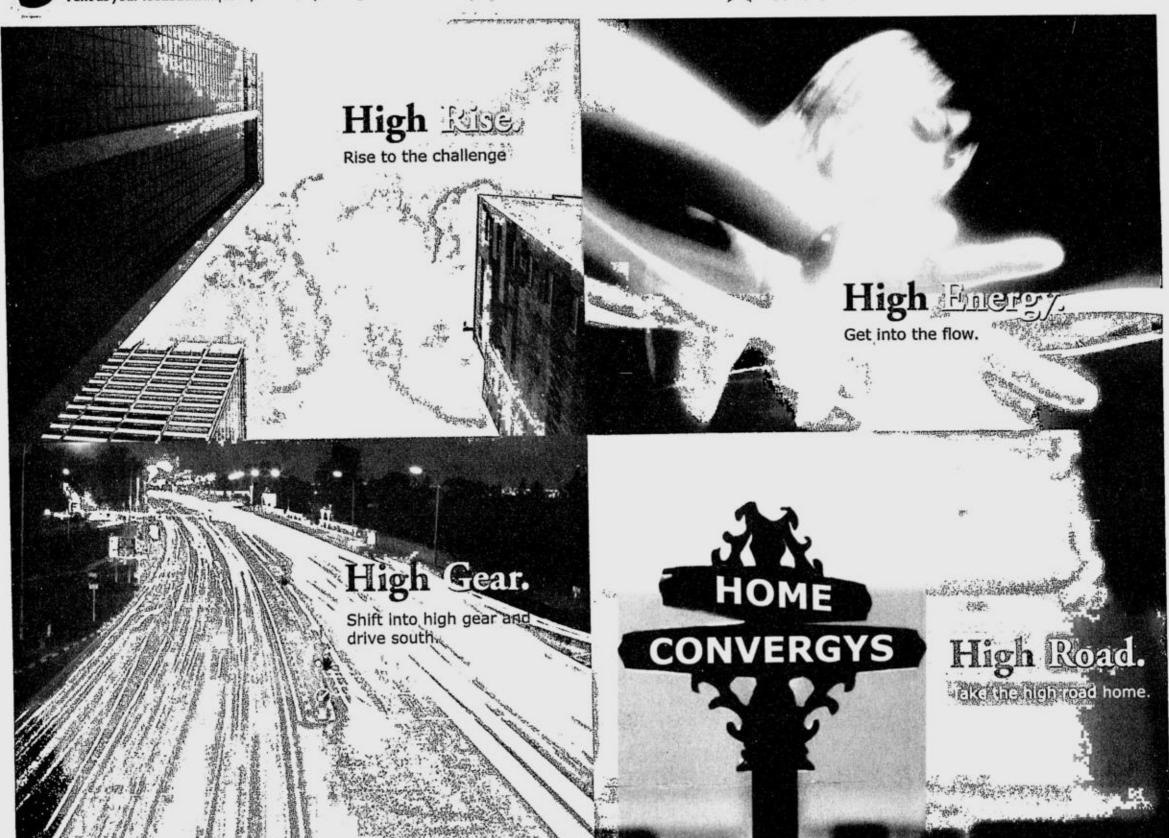
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#### SENIOR CLIENT SERVICES MANAGER (Commonwealth or Makati)

Over-all management of program, including financial performance, coordination with resource units, and the single point of contact for the on-site client team.

- 2-3 years program management experience
- Excellent client interface and negotiation skills
- Has the ability to analyze daily results and make recommendations to the client on program enhancements, changes in direction and adjunct service offerings
- Has the ability to communicate program results on a regular basis throughout the organization
- Can develop recommendations of service offerings to clients to solve problems
- Can serve as a subject-matter-expert in pre-sales meetings/presentations/site visits in order to assist Sales in closing new business

#### SENIOR OPERATIONS MANAGER (Commonwealth, Makati, Ortigas, Alabang)

Responsible for decisions concerning operational strategies and tactics as well as addressing investments concerns in the program and building relationships with client.

- Has at least 2-3 years solid managerial experience in a call center setting
- Ability to guide individuals toward goal achievement using negotiation, teamwork/collaboration, motivation and staff development skills including the ability to act as a role model within the organization.
- Excellent ability to demonstrate innovation and good judgment/problem
- solving skills when making decisions. Ability to establish a course of action for self and others to accomplish a
- specific goal while using appropriate resources. Strong ability to coach, develop action plans, which maximize performance,
- and provide effective feedback. Proven ability to analyze and improve work processes and policies.
- Financial analysis and budgetary skills.

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The Private Sector Mobilization in Family Planning (PRISM) Project

Scope of Work

#### **Workplace Component Specialist**

#### Background:

PRISM supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, Desired family size and Improved health sustainably achieved, focusing on three components: 1) increased workplace support for FP services and referrals, 2) establishment of viable, mass market brands of hormonal contraceptives, and 3) increased business value of FP among private practice providers.

The PRISM project is widely dispersed, with a head office in Manila, and three regional offices for Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao in Manila, Cebu, and Davao, respectively. Family planning coordinators (FPCs) work remotely in strategically selected provinces. In the case of PRISM's workplace initiatives component, the participatory strategy design led by the Senior Component Director for workplace initiatives at the head office must be communicated effectively and quickly to the remote regional operations staff. As the FPCs are not necessarily technical experts in the field of FP workplace programs, they must be mentored and guided in the implementation of the workplace strategy. For this purpose, a workplace mponent specialist will be fielded in each of the regional offices.

Reporting to the regional director, the workplace component specialist will provide technical assistance to the operations team in the region on matters of workplace initiatives. S/he will ensure that workplace strategies are understood and implemented well by the field personnel by providing regular and timely feedback to the Regional Operations Manager, the Regional Director and the Senior Component Director for workplace initiatives. S/he will also assist the Family Planning Coordinators in the area in implementing the Workplace Component strategic plan effectively. S/he will also ensure the effective implementation of the grants program and the M&E reporting system through regular linison with partners and staff in the region.

#### Specific Tasks:

The workplace component specialist will:

- Provide technical assistance to regional operations personnel on workplace initiatives.
   Ensure that Family Planning Coordinators (FPC) understand the Workplace component strategic plan
  - through regular consultative meetings with them and the Regional Directors;
    Assist, mentor, and guide the FPCs in liaising with local workplace partners to provide the latter information
- about accessing grants from PRISM;
  Conduct regular field visits with the FPCs to monitor implementation of workplace strategies and provide
- assistance as may be appropriate: Guther feedback from the FPCs and partner associations about matters that may affect the attainment of the goals set for the Workplace Initiatives component in the region;
- Assist the FPCs in organizing activities that will contribute to the achievement of the component goals in
- B. Provides feedback to the Senior Component Director for Workplace Initiatives (SCD-WP).
  1. Evaluate the effectiveness of the Workplace Initiatives strategies being implemented in the field regional offices;
  2. Submit reports to the Regional Director, copy the Regional Manager and SCD-WP on a regular basis as may
- be agreed upon; Recommend strategies and action plans to the Regional Director and the SCD-WP that will result in the fast
- attainment of the regional goals for Workplace Initiatives; C. Ensure effective implementation of the grants program for Workplace Initiatives component.
  - Identify potential partners in the region to include in the grants program of PRISM;
    Provide information to local partners about the grants program that will result in their submission of proposals for grants; Identify training needs of local partners pertaining to the grants program and to the implementation of
  - workplace FP program;
    Monitor and provide assistance to local partners in the implementation of the grants program;
    Provide regular feedback to the Regional Director about the status of the grants program, copy furnished to SCD-WP. Regional Operations Manager, Field Support Manager and the Senior Grants Manager.
    Verify and sign off on technical completion of deliverables contained in grant agreements, as claimed and

#### invoiced by grantees. Supervision: The Workplace Component Specialist reports to the Regional Director. S/he will have coordinative functions with the

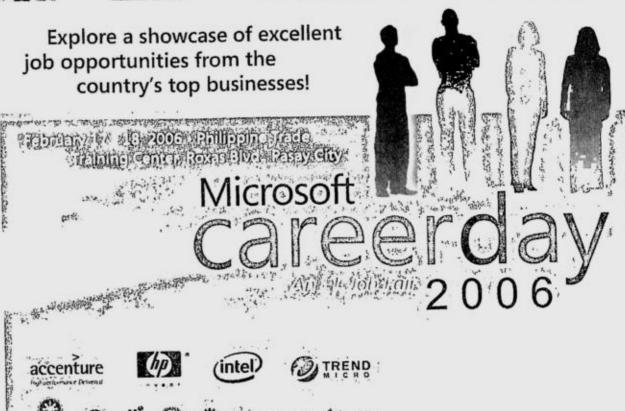
Senior Component Director- Workplace on technical matters

- College graduate with a degree in Business Administration, Development Studies or any of its equivalent Preferably with post graduate degree in business, management or other related fields;

  Minimum five years of management experience, dealing with private business firms and associations and corporate
- Has strong network with business organizations, trade associations and labor groups;
  Has strong network with business organizations, trade associations and labor groups;
  Experience in family planning program is a must. Experience in family planning in the workplace is preferable,
  Excellent analytical, problem-solving and planning skills required
  Effective communication skills in English and in the local dadect are a must,
- Must have strong ability to prioritize and organize workloads and handle multiple tasks simultaneously and effectively; Must be able to work in a team environment;
- Preferably a local resident in the area of deployment; Proficient in MS Office WORD, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook; and,

Willing to travel in strategic intervention areas in Mindanao. Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter and CV at jobs@prism.org.ph on or before 17th of February 2006. Please indicate the subject of your email as "Position Code: WCSM"







For more information, contact:-Ms. Glgl Vinuya at (632) 840.0985 - 86, 0921.4889292 or email secretariat@pcs-lt.org Mr. Delfin Juan III at 0917.8335769 or email juan\_delfin3@yahon.com-



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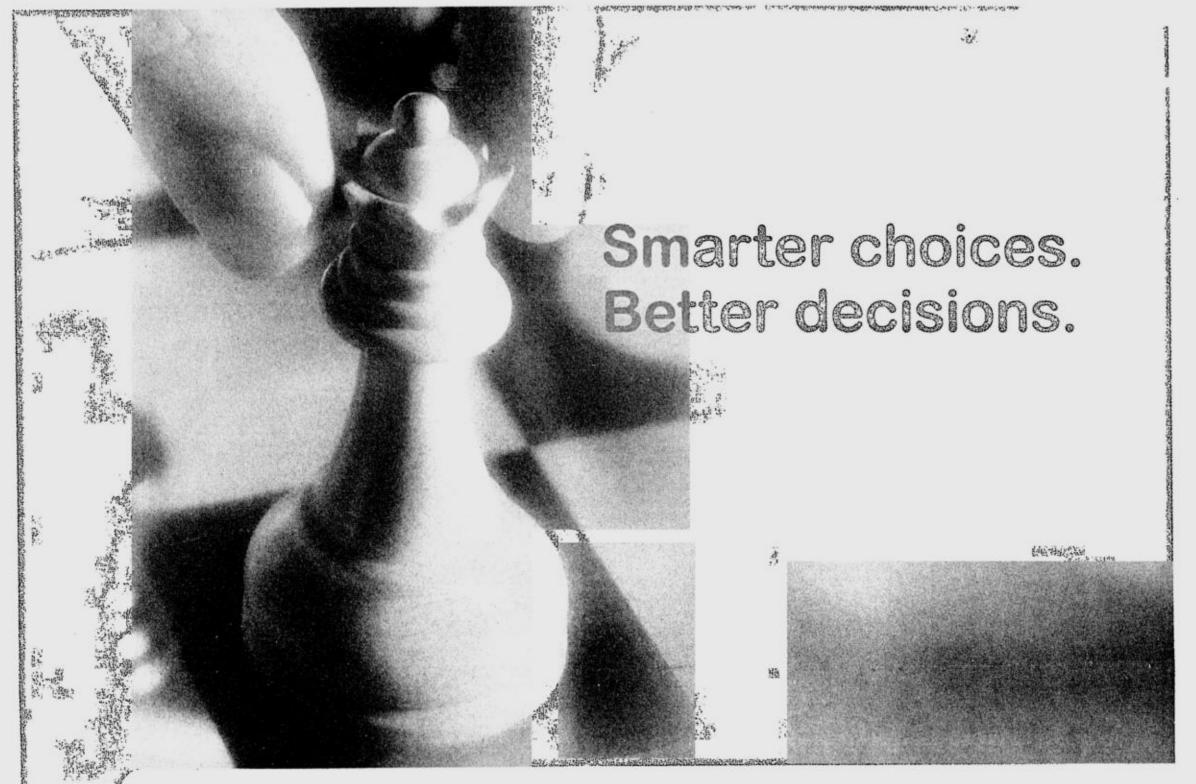
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### HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER Job Code: HRM

He/she will be responsible for organizational development, recruitment, selection and placement, compensation and benefits administration, performance appraisal, training and development, and employee relations.

- Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science or related courses · At least 5 years cumulative experience in handling all facets of human resources gained from any industry
- Excellent written and oral communications skills

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Job Code: BDM

He/she will be tasked with identifying client project requirements, preparation of proposals, client representation, company presentations, and other activities related to business development and client maintenance.

- College graduate
- At least 7 years experience in high-level sales and marketing Strong knowledge of the industry, preferably with existing contact network
- Effective presentation and communication skills Aggressive attitude with pleasing personality

# PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Job Code: PDO

He/she will be tasked to handle all facets of product development particularly in analyzing the market for possible real estate ventures leading to realization of such ventures

- Graduate of Business Management or other related course
- At least of 5 years work experience Must have a strong background in research and product
- development preferably in real estate or banking institutions Must have good presentation and negotiation skills
- · With strong leadership qualities

# COST ACCOUNTING OFFICER

Job Code: CAO

He/she will be tasked to maintain, monitor and analyze, the standard, actual, and budgeted costs of the firms' various projects with varying scope and complexity. He/she will also play a key role in the budgeting process, coordinating with various strategic business and operating units in coming up with flexible budgets.

- College graduate of Accountancy
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA) a must
- At least six (6) years experience in Cost Accounting preferably
- in a project-based service firm
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Highly analytical and process-oriented

### OPERATIONS MANAGER

Job Coda: OPM

He shall be responsible for managing the operations of an architectural and engineering design process outsourcing facility. He shall maintain client relationship and satisfaction.

- Professional registration in architecture required
- At least 3 years experience in a similar capacity and 10 years experience in high-rise design and construction documentation preferred
- Must have strong leadership qualities
- International exposure an advantage
- Must be willing to travel abroad
- Excellent presentation and communication skills

### ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER

Job Code: APM

He shall oversee production of contract documents, detailing and specifications writing for various project types. He shall also be responsible for coordination with clients and consultants (MEPS) to ensure architectural design/interior design intent is maintained. He shall be in-charge of final review, quality control and timely submission of project deliverables.

- College degree in architecture
- · Professional registration required
- At least 10 years experience in high-rise design and construction documentation required
- · Strong leadership qualities, managerial and organizational skills required
- Has working knowledge of AutoCAD 2004/2005
- International exposure an advantage
- Must be willing to travel abroad
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required

### PROJECT COORDINATOR

Job Code: PRC

He shall be responsible for over-all coordination with Client, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing/Fire Protection and Structural (MEPS) engineering consultants from conceptual to construction documentation stages. He shall be in-charge of design review, quality control and timely submission of project deliverables.

- College degree in architecture
- Professional registration required
- At least 5 years experience in high-rise design and construction
- documentation required Proficiency in Autocad 2004/2005 required
- Willing to travel
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required

### SPECIFICATIONS WRITER

Job Code: SWA

He shall be responsible for the preparation of specifications for all project types and for managing library of materials.

- · College degree in architecture
- Professional registration required
- At least 5 years experience as specs writer using AIA/CSI
- · Excellent written and oral communication skills required

### PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT OFFICER

Job Code: PMO

He shall be responsible for managing schedule and manpower requirements in production of contract documents. He shall also undertake quality control in sheet composition, content and consistency in CADD standards.

- College degree in architecture
- Professional registration preferred
- At least 5 years experience in high-rise design and construction documentation required
- Proficiency in AutoCAD 2004/2005 required
- Excellent communication skills required

# CADD DESIGNER

Job Code: CAD

He shall be primarily responsible for generating working drawings

- College degree in architecture
- At least 3 years experience in construction documentation for architecture (preferably high-rise) or interior design projects pre-
- Proficiency in AutoCAD 2004/2005 required
- Proficiency in modeling and graphic/rendering software an ad-

# PROJECT OFFICER / ENGINEER / ARCHITECT

Job Code: PRE

He shall be responsible for construction supervision/inspection. He shall undertake project management and shall ensure design quality control during project implementation.

- College degree in Architecture/ Electrical Engineering and /or Mechanical Engineering
- · Professional registration preferred
- With 3 years experience
- · Exposure in construction & fit-out preferred
- · International exposure an advantage
- · Computer literacy and proficiency preferred

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# Market Research Interviewer

- Excellent ability to read, Write, speak and understand American English . A if photogram
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- Qualified candidates must have prior work experience in conducting outbound or inbound phone calls speaking with consumors,
- Above average computer proficiency in basic office software

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- cation skills (oral & written)
- Computer literate Able to document meticulously
- Possess critical thinking skills
- Capacity to function independently Work well in stressful situations

# Medical Transcriptionists

- Must have at least 1 year experience as a transcriptionist (either medical or legal)
- Must be able to type 50 wpm. The candidate should possess the following skills.
  - **Excellent English Grammar and** Spelling Skills
  - **Advanced English Punctuation Skills**
  - Computer Literate
  - Proficient in any Word Processor

# Call Center Agent (Sales)

- Excellent ability to read, write, derstand American English
  - Idates must have rience in conducting bound phone calls for ting activities. computer proficiency

# All Positions REQUIRE the following General Qualifications:

- Willingness to work flexible shifts

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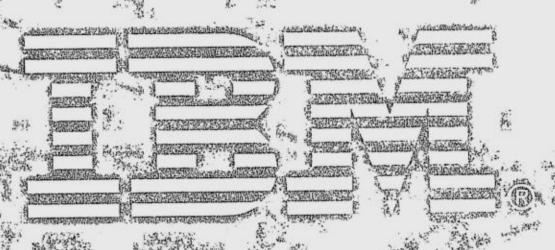
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  - and various applications · Willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedulo-shifting environment

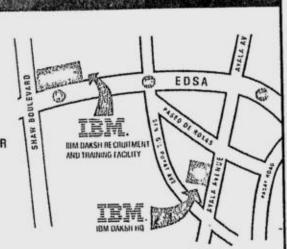
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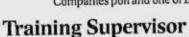
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- Psychology/Behavioral Science/Mass Communication graduate
- · Female, aged 25 to 29 · Familiar with MS Office applications
- · With excellent communications skills
- · Experienced in training, recruitment and organizational

### HR Assistant (Employee Relations)

- Psychology/Behavioral Science/Mass Communication graduate
- Female, at least 21 years old
- Familiar with MS Office applications With excellent interpersonal skills

# Account Management Specialist

- · Graduate of any four-year course
- · At least 21 years old
- · Willing to do client calls · Preferably experienced in credit and collection

# Accounts Payable Assistant

· BS Accountancy/BS Commerce major in

Proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel

Accountancy graduate With at least 6 months' experience in a similar position

# Financial Analyst

- BS Accountancy graduate
- . Not more than 30 years old · Experience in audit is an advantage

- JR Accountant · Certified Public Accountant
- Aged 25 to 28
- Knowledgeable with financial statement preparation, bookkeeping and general accounting
- Works well under pressure

# Division Secretary

- · Graduate of any four-year course
- · Female, at least 21 years old With excellent communication skills
- · Hardworking and attentive to details
- With or without experience

# Receptionist

- · Graduate of any four-year course
- · Female, at least 21 years old With pleasing personality and
- good communication skills

# Graphic Artist

 BS Fine Arts/Advertising graduate from a reputable university With 2 to 3 years' experience as an illustrator/free-hand artist with background in graphics and signages

# **Customer Relations**

- · Graduate of any four-year course
- At least 21 years old
- With 1 year experience in a service-oriented company and excellent interpersonal skills

# Marketing Officer

- BS Marketing graduate from a reputable university
- Aged 21 to 30 Good in conceptualizing and implementing plans, strategies
- and promotion mixes With excellent communication and planning skills

# Management Analyst

- Graduate of BS Management/Economics or any business course from a reputable university
- Female, at least 21 years old
- With good scholastic records
- · Hardworking, flexible and attentive to details · With or without experience

# Account Executive/ **Marketing Assistant**

- BS Business Administration graduate
- · Female, at least 25 years old With 2 years of marketing experience

# **Executive Assistant**

BS Commerce Major in Banking and Finance graduate

## · Female, at least 25 years old

- Cost Control Assistant
- BS Hotel and Restaurant Management graduate · Female, at least 21 years old and above
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sound working knowledge of ISO best practices and procedures particularly on

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recent site supervision experience in building works.

registered Civil Engineer or Architect.

within multilateral organizations

building construction methodology.

proficiency in oral and communication skills.

# Senior Project Assistant

The position is responsible for assisting in the coordination, supervision and implementation of Special Capital Projects of the Asset and Project Management Section (OAFA-AP). Specific responsibilities include:

- mensuring that the construction and implementation of the project conforms to
- recommending technical solutions or changes that are necessary in the
- implementation of the project. reporting and/or providing recommendations on changes in the cost and quantity of materials, labor or other items that would affect the budget and timely completion of the project.
- coordinating the production of detailed drawings needed in the implementation of the project with the drafting personnel and design consultants.

# Project Administration

- reviewing the accuracy and completeness of contractors' claims and other contractual documents prior to verification by the supervisor.
- requesting and deploying manpower and equipment needed to ensure timely completion of the project.
- maintaining a record of the summary of the quantities, costs and timing of materials, labor and equipment used in implementing a specific project for

performing other duties as may be assigned by the position's immediate supervisor, Head, OAFA-AP and/or Director, OAFA.

# Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to Head, OAFA-AP and Director, OAFA through the Project Management Officer of OAFA-AP.

# Selection Criteria

- Specific criteria include:
- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned at the required level.

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- Experience in wine and liquor sales is a plus 23-28 yrs old preferred

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- BANQUET SALES MANAGER Has strong sales background and network can conduct productive. Knowledgeable in costing, menu planning, food styling and events
- conceptualization. At least 2 to 5 years banquet management experience in the service
- andustry.

  25-35 years old, mature, trustworthy, entrepreneurial mindset

  Can efficiently plan and organize both on and off premise catering for multi
  concept restaurants. Produces thorough & detailed work

  Preferably HRA/HRM/Tourism or Business Graduate.

- BANQUET COORDINATOR
- Preferably HRA/HRM Graduate.
- Minimum 2 to 3 years work experience in the same capacity. Will do on premise coordination and handle all follow up calls. Process and prepare banquet and contract documents.
- CUSTOMER SERVICE/

# MARKETING COORDINATOR

- Will take care of Customer Service Management and Local Store Marketing.
- Knowledge in graphic design an advantage
  Highly personable, charming and excellent interpersonal skills.

### Adept at computer programs & applications CUSTOMER SERVICE/

## MARKETING COORDINATOR

- (SIDEBAR) Minimum 2 to 3 years work experience in the same capacity. Coordinates with the marketing department for strategy implementation and
- membership club activities. Handle customer service management during operations.

### Will manage customer database and in charge of guest profiling. Will occasionally conduct market research.

- MARKETING OFFICER
- Preferably HRA/HRWManagement or Business Graduate. 25- 30 years old
- Must have a passion for adver graphic designing, sponsorship and public relations Enthusiastic, decisive, resourceful and creative
  - At least 2 years work experience in the Marketing field Interested applicants may submit their resumés to: HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT 11/F Agustin 1 Bldg. 28 F. Ortigas Jr. Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City

email: hr@chateaugroup.com Position Available Until February 28, 2006

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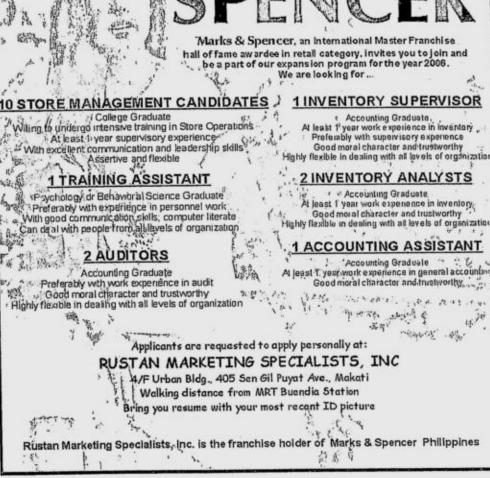


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# TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES

Must possess at least a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Information Technology, or its equivalent; Technical background is an advantage

# INBOUND CALL CENTER AGENTS

At least second year college / graduate of any course; Eighteen (18) years old and above; Able to effectively communicate in English; Willing to work in various shifts including graveyard shift

# OUTBOUND CALL CENTER AGENTS

At least second year college / graduate of any course; Eighteen (18) years old and above; Able to effectively communicate in English; Must have sales experience; Willing to work in various shifts including graveyard shift

# CLIENT SERVICE MANAGER

Two(2)-Three(3) years in a call center; Should have excellent presentation skills; Detail-oriented; Team player

# ASSISTANT CALL CENTER MANAGER

ACCM level / comparative to current or previous experience; One (1) year of customer service experience; Has strong background in computer applications; Outgoing/ Friendly/ Mature; Active listening skills; Strong motivational skills

# TRAINERS (Technical Account)

Excellent presentation skills; Strong technical background is a must; Call center experience is an advantage; Team-oriented & able to work in a fast-paced environment :-

# SUPERVISORS / TEAM LEADERS

At least one (1) year in customer service in a call center; Technical experience is a plus; Outgoing friendly and mature; Strong motivational skills

# QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISORS

One (1) year supervisory experience in a call center environment; Experience as a quality assurance supervisor/analyst is an advantage

# QUALITY ASSURANCE ANALYSTS

Must have at least six (6) months call center experience; Must demonstrate honesty, reliability & ability to follow Corporate QA directives; Strong attention to details

## MISSION CONTROL ANALYSTS

Must have at least six (6) months customer service experience; One (1) year call center experience; Ability to work under pressure, Meet deadlines & be accountable for the performance of others; Demon-strated leadership skills, dependability & initiative; Flexible schedule

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT DATA ANALYST

At least (6) months administrative assistant experience in a fast-paced environment; Excellent skills in Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Project and Outlook; Internet savvy; Excellent organizational and communication skills; Ability to prioritize and complete multi-task assignments; Excellent time management skills; Strong attention to detail

# PROCESSING SPECIALIST

Able to work in a fast-paced environment; Proficient in Microsoft Excel; Excellent time management skills; Ability to prioritize and complete multi-task assignments; Strong attention to detail



All positions require excellent verbal & written communication skills and knowledge in Microsoft Office & Internet Explorer Interested applicants may bring the following requirements: Updated resume / 2 pcs of 2x2 picture / 6 pcs of 1x1 picture

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Noritake Porcelana Mfg., Inc.



A pioneer enterprise in the manufacture of porcelain dinnerware in the Phils.

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# ASSISTANT accounting manager

A Certified Public Accountant with accounting work experience in a managerial capacity in a manufacturing company. Highly computer literate. Not more than 35 years old.

# RESPONSIBILITIES

He / She will be tasked to direct the activities of Accounting Department, especially the preparation of financial reports and tax requirements, provide control systems in the performance of accounting functions, and review and monitor the company's financial

Qualified applicants may submit their resume with attached photo to

or e-mail to hr@noritake.com.ph or contact tel. nos. 942-1185; 942-0727

Urgently Needs of the following:

# **AESTHETICIAN**

D Female; 20-25 years old; At least 5'2" in height. Hardworking; Flexible; Non Smoker; Slim; With Smooth Hands; With Pleasing Personality and Fair Complexion; Willing to be assigned in other branches; At least college level

# PATIENT CARE/RECEPTIONISTS

☐ Female; 20-25 years old; At least 5'4" in height; Good Communication Skills; Hardworking; Flexible; Non Smoker; Slim; With Smooth Hands; With Pleasing Personality and Fair Complexion; Willing to be assigned in other branches; At least

Interested Applicants should personally bring their resumé at farever flawless FACE & BODY CENTER INC. from Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

> #748 Edsa West Kamlas, Quezon City with Telephone Nos.: 926-9418 to 19 and 924-1626 and look for Ms. Gigi and Ms. Alleen Alviz

Email: gpdyamante@yahoo.com

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# WANTED COST ACCOUNTANT

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can design production internal control systems and procedures

# LABORATORY Q.C. Assistants

BS Chem, Chem Eng or related

Apply in person at Suite 2505 Tektite Tower West, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 9-11 am ONLY (Tel. 6357966-71). Bring resumé with 2x2 picture, Transcript of Record and NBI Clearance.

# Associate SRP Management Reports Analyst

The position is responsible for providing analytical and technical support in the management and administration of Staff Retirement Plan (SRP) investments by undertaking a range of specialized duties. Specific responsibilities include.

Investment Policy and Strategies

- participating in policy review and providing opinion on review on
- handling ADB protocol to initiate changes proposed by the policy review.
- Investment Activity Mondoring
- reviewing audited month-end reports from the global custodian to verify that SRP assets are invested in accordance with policy guidelines.
- reporting any violations encountered and recommending remedial action. meintaining and monitoring a "watch list" of investments with potential downgrating of credit ratings and investments with unusual characteristics to ensure proper remedial action taken.
- analyzing mathodologies adopted for pricing portfolio securities; tracking portfelio securities held in safekeeping; accounting for purchases and safes of securities; and tracking securities used as colleteral.
- reconciling records and not-asset-value calculation of securities held in portfolios as reported by investment managers and the global custodian to ensure proper accounting of partfolio inventory reporting any differences found and recommending ways to resolve these
- assisting in the preparation of reports on investment performance, portfolio activities, changes in asset value and financial risks undertaken by investment compiling and analyzing specialized financial information to produce graphs,
- charts, and tables to supplement SRP reports keeping abreast of market conditions and of industry best practices pertaining
- to the management and investment of pension fund assets.

### Cash and Float Management identifying ways to minimize costs to SRP.

- developing mechanism and maintaining control over cash balances in portfolio
- to ensure they are utilized for earnings. monitoring ADB contributions to and remutances out of SRP investment portfolio to ensure accurate accounting for changes in size of the portfolio holdings

# Tax Reclaim Management

 establishing and maintaining a systematic approach to manitoring taxes withheld on investment earnings and ensuring the fund to SRP. Investment Manager/Global Custodian Oversight

### assisting in managing relationships between investment managers and the global custodian for smooth and efficient post trade processing and reporting.

- monitoring and validating fees charged for management of portfolio, custodial services and consulting services against terms of contracts and valid underlying activities.
- arranging for payment of these fees.

- planning and developing ways to obtain up-to-date investment data from investment managers and the global custodian, preferably electronically, to facilitate monitoring process. establishing an effective record-keeping system for easy retrieval and to
- comply with legal rotention period required by ADB.
- assisting in research and study undertaken by SRP Investment Unit.

- keeping current with software technology provided by the global custodian, other relevant financial information system providers and ADB coordinating with software providers and Office of Information Systems and Technology (OIST) for the installation and maintenance of SRP software
- applications in users' workstations. arranging for appropriate training for software users.
- performing other duties as required, e.g. arranging for hotel accommodations, travel, and transportation of visitors.

- Support to SRP Investment Committee assisting in handling ADB formakties when there is a change in SRP
- Investment Committee membership.
- assisting in organizing Committee meetings
- serving as back-up to the Secretary of the Committee. serving as liaison of SRP Investments Unit with ADB internal parties (e.g.

### Controller (CTL), Office of the Auditor General (OAG), and Plan participants), investment managers, and global custodian to assist all parties in clanfying matters of interest to their responsibility areas.

Reporting Arrangement The position reports to the Senior Risk Management Specialist (SRP)

# Selection Criteria

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level. a Bachelor's degree, preferably in finance, accounting, economics, mathematics or
- at least five years of experience in international banking operations, pension fund investment or pension fund administration or accounting, a working knowledge of portfolio investment administration

a high degree of numerical skills and advanced computer literacy.

a keen understanding and knowledge of business protocols.

 a good understanding of the nature and behavior of global finance and capital markets and a strong foundation in investment principles and pension fund monagement. strong in written and oral communication.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manife, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its administrative stall locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management

Apply electronically, quoting Ref. No. EXT-AS06-805(4)-TDID and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on www adb.org/Employment/ applorm.asp to e-mail address; CS-jobs@adb.org by 24 February 2006. Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

Asian Development Bank ADB



www.adb.org

# WANTED SURVEYOR

Surveyor/instrument man, not more than 30 years old, at least 3 years experience in surveying, set-out of references and control points, levels and profitos. Preferably experienced in survey of buildings and site development, and proficient in CAD; knowledge

in using Total Station an advantage Submit resumé to 9574 F. Yabut Circle Kalayaan Ave., Guadalupe, Makali or fax to 7525347

# WANTED CAD OPERATOR

Architecture graduate, not more than 30 years old; proficient in CAD; knowledge in computer rendering an advantage.

Submit resumé to 9574 F. Yabut Circle Kalayaan Ave., Guadalupe, Makati or fax to 7525347



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- MALE GUARDS 22-32 years old, 5'7", college
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Operations Manager (Technical Support, Outbound Sales, BPO Program) Team Captains (Technical Support, Customer Service) **Customer Service Associates Outbound Sales Associates** 

Technical Support Associates Inbound Sales Associates

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Speech Trainers Trainers (Technical Support, Outbound Sales)

QUALITY ASSURANCE Quality Assurance Analysts

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**BUSINESS PROCESS IMPROVEMENT** MIS Analyst

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Organizational Development Specialists Marketing and PR Manager **Human Resources Generalists** Recruitment Associates

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## SUPPORT

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SQL SIEBEL Specialist SQL Scripter Market Data Management Specialist

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- Male, 30 years old and above
- Must have exemplary communication and leadership skills
- Able to understand Cebuano
- A graduate of any Engineering course from a reputable school with good scholastic records
- Must possess the expertise in the field of Assembly Operations Production or Plant facilities
- Must have vast technical expertise
- Willing to be relocated in Cebu

# PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

- Male 28-35 years old
- Able to understand Cebuano
- A graduate of any Engineering course from a reputable school with good scholastic records
- Must have at least 3-5 years experience as a production supervisor in the field of Assembly Operations / Production Must have good communication and interpersonal skills
- Willing to be relocated in Cebu

Interested Applicants may e-mail their Application Letter, Comprehensive Resumé with 2x2 picture and TOR to: hrd\_section@yahoo.com

### WANTED ) ACCOUNTING STAFF

BS Accountancy Graduate at least 25 years old, 5yrs experience, competen and hardworking 2) SEWERS Highly skilled

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# **Business Development Officer**

- Bachelor Degree in Engineering, Computer Science or related
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  - Local and National Government Engineering Design / Construction

# Admin Assistant / Receptionist

- College graduate of any 4-year course Excellent oral communication skills, with pleasing personality
- Proficiency in related computer applications is required Candidates must be between 21 to 35 years old, with good interpersonal skills, and able to work efficiently under pressure Hiring Manager from U.S. will be in Manila for only 2 weeks Please send your resumé with 2x2 colored picture immediately to:

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- Male, College Graduate
- At least 3 years work experience in a mediumsized or lage company engaged in medical or pharmaceutical products
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- Pleasing personality
- Must know how to drive and possesses a driver's license

Send resumé with at least three references, transcript of records and 2x2 ID picture on or before February 24, 2006 to:

PRYCE GASES INC. McArthur Highway Sindalan, City of San Fernando Pampanga

# PHARMACISTS

# WANTED IMMEDIATELY

If you are a female licensed pharmacist, preferably single, with at least one year experience dealing with BFAD and wish to work with a dynamic company. This is your chance.

Submit your resumé with picture via email at: sangiovanihrd@yahoo.com. Qualified candidates will be contacted via SMS for their testing and interview schedules



# SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

development Source required. Proficient in C++, PHP, Perl, Python, sh, and SQL languages. Must be able to work via the Internet. Forty hours a week. Preferably a residence of Paranaque City.

Please send your resume to: myra@lomin.com or visit our website: www.lomin.com

### FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING COUNTER SALES PROVIDERS Male/Female, single, Computer Science graduate

ACCOUNTING CLERK

Male, Single & must be graduate of Accounting Interested parties, please apply in person at: YUKON GEN.

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# ·WANTED. TRAILER and REFUELLER DRIVERS

Qualification:

at least 3 years related work experience, college level
 not more than 40 years old, holder of prof. driver's license
 Restriction code of 8 is an advantage

Send Comprehensive resumé, 2x2 ID picture Diploma and other credentials to: Filipinas Transport, Inc.

# 8526-1 Juanita De Loon St. Brgy. San Dionisio, Sucat, Parañaque City 1700

### SALES COORDINATORS Age: Female, 20-30 years old

College Graduate from reputable schools Pleasant disposition, hard working, honest Fluent in English & Chinese (optional)

Interested parties are requested to e-mail to cascade\_cc@yahoo.com, an e-commerce company based in Ortigas Center, Pasig City Tel. No.: 634-6273

# MARKETING EXECUTIVE

A new and exciting production team is in need of a smart, reliable, personable and creative marketing executive.

Must be well-connected with sponsors and advertisers. Experience in promotions and advertising is a plus.

Please send your resumé and contact info to gina\_dejoras@yahoo.com or FAX 887-7708

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- Please submit resumé at Unit 905 Pago One Building 1215 Acada Avenue, Madrigei Business Park, Ayata Alabang 1750



# Check out our job openings:

- Customer Service Representatives
- Administrative Assistant\*

\*Bachelor's Degree required

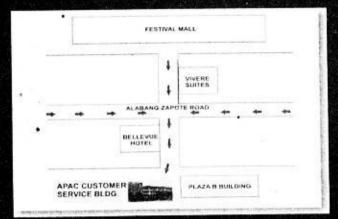
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Apply online: recruitment@apacmail.com Or visit our website: www.apaccustomerservices.com







The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM) Project Scope of Work

# Regional Director

Background The PRISM Project supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, Desired family size and improved health sustainably achieved, focusing on three components: 1) increased workplace support for FP services and referrals; 2) establishment of viable, mass market brands of hormonal contraceptives; and 3) increased business value of FP among private practice providers.

A regional director for Mindanao region will have overall responsibility for the implementation of activities in the region Implementation will focus on working with project partners in the strategic areas to implement a core package of grants. technical assistance and training. A key responsibility will be the integration of regional staff to accomplish all activities and achieve all targets and objectives in the region. The regional director will also ensure the synchronization of the activities of the three components in a manner that component activities are complementing each other's goals. All staff in regional offices report to the regional director. In addition, the regional director will be tasked with monitoring the performance of the field-based FP coordinators, identifying issues and providing solutions, and working with the senior technical advisors to jointly develop a mutually acceptable work plan for each strategic area.

The regional director will also directly supervise the activities of component managers in three technical areas, all of whom will work out of the regional office. The component managers are tasked with monitoring activities and providing technical guidance to field implementation activities in their component area, which include workplace-based FP programs, market development, and private provider network expansion. Component managers also provide technical support and oversight to the FP coordinators serving as project managers in each of the strategic areas in their region, comprised of provinces or the FP coordinators serving as project managers in each of the strategic areas in their region, comprised of provinces or cities. Component managers reporting to the Luzon director will divide responsibilities for north and south Luzon

# General Tasks

- Review the project technical proposal and other relevant documentation, including the following: USAID/Philippines strategic plan; documents from past and present projects in the Philippines relevant to PRISM such as the CMS. The Policy Project; research studies on private sector programs and initiatives in family planning; the PRISM annual work plans; PRISM quarterly reports for the first year; the reports from the National Demographic and Health Surveys and Annual Family Planning Surveys; \$1A assessment reports; and other relevant materials on local and national FP
- Participate in the annual project work planning processes and provide input into the establishment of coordination
- mechanisms between head office and regional field offices.

  Manage regional office stuff in a manner that promotes efficiency and productivity at the workplace.
- Build effective partnerships with local organizations and represent PRISM in events sponsored by local organizations

- Review and approve integrated work plans prepared by FP coordinators, with input from component managers and senior technical advisors, for each SIA in the region;
- Prepare and submit required reports on time. Review SIA activities with respect to each component objective and evaluate corresponding fund expenditures with
- respect to cost efficiency. Work with office administrative staff in the preparation of the office annual budget. Engage regional staff in the development of strategies to anticipate, prevent, and counteract potential opposition to
- project activities.

  Conduct weekly staff meeting for staff in the regional office, and conduct monthly regional meeting for all regional staff.
- Plan and conduct orientation and regular monthly meeting of FP coordinators in the SIAs covered by the regional Conduct regular quarterly field visits in SIAs, and provide feedback to Munila-based senior technical advisors of any
- implementation problems that need attention and solutions.
- Monitor and evaluate the performance of technical and administrative office staff and submit to headquarters performance evaluation forms signed by the staff. Approve all regional expenditures and act as signatory on a regional bank account.

# The regional director will report directly to the Senior Field Operations Director who will be responsible for the monitoring

- Qualifications: With at least 10 years of management experience in any of the following fields: family planning, health care, sales, etc. Networking experience with health provider associations, pharmaceutical industry associations, business
  - organizations is an advantage Preferably with post graduate degree in business, management or other related fields
  - Excellent in written and verbal communications Preferably resident of Davao

Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter and CV at jobs@prism.org.ph on or befure 17th February 2006.

# JOB VACANCY

We are looking for a Law Librarian with the

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- interested applicants may submit their resumes to: Atty. Irene Joy J. Besido-Garcia Roco Kapunan Migallos & Luna Law Offices

16th Floor Strata 2000 Bldg., F. Ortigas, Jr. Road. (formerly Emerald Ave.), Orligas Center, Pasig City Email: Ijbesido Ørbkmlaw.com



# 1. Accounting Supervisor

- 2. Company Nurse
- Female, Single, BS Nursing Graduate with Licensure, proferably with 1 year experience as Industrial Nurse
- . Plumber / Carpenter
- Male: Single Giaduate of any Technical Course / Vocational Course Must have expertise in carpentry works as well as plumbing works
- Apply at : FUJI ELECTRIC PHILIPPINES, INC. FOUR ELECTRIC PHILIPPINES, and: 107 Enterprise Drive SEPZII Cermekay Industrial Park Cantubang, Calarriba Leguna (049) 549-3291 or (02) 844-6183 loc 208, 220





# Senior Component Director: Market Development

The PRISM Project supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, Desired family size and improved health sustainably achieved, focusing on three components: 1) increased workplace support for FP services and referrals, 2) establishment of viable, mass market brands of hormonal contraceptives, and 3) increased business value of FP among private practice providers.

The Market Development Component of the project is intended to increase recognition of business opportunities in the hormonal FP commodities market in the Philippanes and to motivate businesses to take advantage of those opportunities. The Senior Component Director for Market Development will be responsible for developing and implementing activities to accomplish these objectives.

Review the project technical proposal and other relevant background documentation, including USAID/Philippines strategic plan, documents from other relevant projects in the Philippines (past and present) such as CMS, research results on marketing programs and initiatives, the project's annual work plan, NDHS and FPS reports, etc.

- Participate in annual project work planning processes and prepare market development component annual plans and GANTT charts.

  Participate in annual project work planning processes and prepare market development component annual budget for marketing component activities. Work with the PSAU Director and the Senior Finance and Administrative Manager to prepare annual budget for marketing component activities. Courdinate with the Senior Component Directors for Workplace Initiatives and Private Practice Providers to identify and capitalize on potential
- continued with the M&E Specialist to monitor and evaluate marketing components.

  Collaborate with the M&E Specialist to monitor and evaluate marketing component activities.
- Work with the MIS Specialist to develop and maintain a database of FP commodity sales, and forecasts of future sales, across the public, social marketing and commercial sectors by type and brand, and develop a national referral network of health service providers and suppliers. Prepare and submit required project reports on time.
- Work with the Communications Team under the supervision of the Technical Communications Director to develop and implement a marketing and public relations campaigns to inform project stakeholders about the project, its aims and purposes.
- Work with other technical and management staff to develop approaches and strategies to anticipate, prevent and counteract potential opposition to project activities from social forces such as religious-based groups
- Complete other tasks and assignments as deemed appropriate by the Chief of Party.

### Specific Tasks Component 1: Workplace Initiatives

- Support marketing inputs to ensure availability of affordable contraceptives for distribution to workplace programs and services. Work with the Senior Component Workplace Director to support companies managing work place initiatives to institute cost recovery mechanisms
- Work with the Senior Component Workplace Director to support companies to analyze the cost benefits of provision of FP services through producing

# cost benefit calculators.

- Component 2: Market Development In coordination with the Senior Pield Operations Director, ensure that activities of the Luzon, Visayus, and Mindanao Marketing Development Specialists. implement overall strategies and activities listed in the Senior Component Market Development Director's annual workplan.

  Work with the Senior Component Directors for Workplace Initiatives and Private Practice and the provider associations' Linison Officers to maintain
- close working relationships with the associations of manufacturers, distributors, health providers and pharmacists and drugstore owners engaged in
- 3. Establish and maintain close working relationships with manufacturers, marketing companies, importers, and distributors of FP commodities to provide
- Establish and manual close working relationships with manufacturers, marketing companies, importers, and distributors of er Commodities to provide linkages and build a network of suppliers, distributors and retailers. Establish and maintain a working relationship with the LEAD Project for Health to obtain information about business opportunities to market contraceptives to LGUs for distribution through public sector outlets. Ensure that information about LGU business opportunities and other husiness opportunities such as midwife entrepreneurs and private practice providers flows to contraceptive manufacturers and distributors. Assist manufacturers and distributors to take advantage of business opportunities, particularly with respect to introduction of next.

- Assist manufacturers and distributors to define strategies to take advantage of business opportunities, particularly with respect to introduction of new brands or methods, and pricing.
- Work with the BCC Specialist and Communications Specialist to develop communications programs and campaigns to generate demand for private sector
- FP products and services, including motivating the shift among non-poor FP clients from public to private sources.

  Work with the Policy and Social Mobilization Advisors to define and manage a public relations /advertising component with respect to policy and regulatory change important to commercial manufacturers, importers and distributors.

  Work closely with the Policy and Social Mobilization Advisors to identify policy issues relating to the private sector FP manufacturers, distributors.
- and to the advertising and promotion of FP products and services, and assist to implement policy initiatives.

  Work with the Policy Consultant to develop and manage relationships with national health policy agencies related to the marketing and retailing of
- Support marketing inputs to ensure availability of affordable contraceptives for distribution to midwives and private practice providers participating
- Work with the Senior Component Director for Private Practice to develop and manage the marketing requirements of its training programs Work with Senior Component Director for Private Practice to implement project activities to motivate members of distributors' sales team to encourage private practice health providers to prescribe and/or sell contraceptive products.
- Work with the Senior Component Director for Private Practice to supply marketing inputs to the work of health provider associations to promote FP
- Provide technical advice and support to the Senior Component Director for Private Practice for development and implementation of a program to support sales of FP products through drug stores.

### The Senior Component Director for Market Development will report directly to the Deputy Chief of Party or his/her designee, who will be responsible for monitoring the director's overall performance.

- With at least 20 years of experience in marketing of products in the commercial healthcare industry
- With at least 15 years managerial experience Preferably with musteral degree
- Proficient in Word, Excel, Powerpoint Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter and CV at jobs@prism.org.ph on or before 20th of February 2006. Please indicate the subject of your email as "Position Code; SCDMD"



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Qualified applicants may bring their resumé with 2X2 picture and other credentials for initial screening and interview on February 13-24, 2006 from 9AM to 5PM at

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> > 经报

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# WANTED

# PROGRAM STAFF FOR RESEARCH & ADVOCACY

# Minimum qualifications:

- Degree in social sciences, community development, or public health or the like;
- Experienced in research & advocacy particularly on reproductive health, & rights gender & justice issues;
- Excellent communication/report writing skills; Proficient in Microsoft Office applications;
- Willing to render full time service

Please send your letter of application together with your updated curriculum vitaé & picture to the:

CEO, Institute for Social Studies and Action Suite 303 Crispina Bldg., 1589 Quezon Ave., Q.C. 1104 Telefax: (02) 410-1685 Email: issa1183@gmail.com

Deadline for application is March 1, 2006. Shortlisted applicants will be notified for interview and exam.

The \*Institute for Social Studies and Action\* (ISSA) is an NGO that works for human rights particularly SRHR and access to justice & health of women and others.

The local representative office for one of the largest assistance companies in the world with 3,500 employees providing 24/7 emergency assistance services to over 115 million members worldwide, would like to invite top-caliber applicants to join its local expansion program for the following positions:

- GENERAL MANAGER to consolidate the company's foothold in the assistance industry, achieve business growth, revenues. and client satisfaction
  - ☑ Executive-level experience with strong business sense and maturity Results-oriented and extraordinary leadership capabilities; innovative, good
  - analytical and problem-solving-skills Highly-flexible, energetic; with capability to assess business opportunities and possess the ability to thrive in a highly-competitive and fast-paced
  - Excellent written and oral skills in English or other foreign languages
- Marketing Manager / Asst. Manager to assist the Marketing Director in developing and maintaining strong
- client relationship and in implementing strategies and initiatives to achieve profitable growth ☑ Bachelor's Degree or Post-Graduate Diploma in Marketing or equivalent
- ☑ 3 yrs. experience in the assistance and service industry or related field
- Excellent oral / written communication and presentation Outstanding team leadership and organizational skills
- Operations Coordinators/ Nurses/
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- Accounting Staff / Clerks / CPAs Applicants must be college graduates with excellent interpersonal and communication skills, intermediate-level computer literacy, highlyorganized, team-players and results-oriented individuals.

Send your resume by email to:

STARGROUP Asia Management Corp. E-mail: stargroup\_asia@yahoo.com

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- Salary - US\$ 4,245 per month

- Not more than 45 years old

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Salary - US\$ 2,698 per month

THIRD OFFICER

- Salary - US\$ 2,335 per month Not more than 30 years old

Not more than 35 years old

### Not more than 50 years old - Not more than 50 years old CHIEF OFFICER 1st ASST. ENGINEER

- Salary - US\$ 4,000 per month - Not more than 45 years old

2<sup>nd</sup> ASST. ENGINEER - Salary - US\$ 2,698 per month

### - Not more than 35 years old

3rd ASST. ENGINEER - Salary - US\$ 2,335 per month

# - Not more than 30 years old

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The Philippine Tatler, Manila's Premiere Lifestyle and Society Magazine has immediate openings for:

### SALES DIRECTOR

- Minimum of 5 years experience in the field of Sales & Marketing
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- · Will be the driving force of the sales team in achieving the sales revenue
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Handicap International, a French international nongovernment organization working on behalf of Persons With Disability (PWD) in over 63 countries worldwide.

is currently seeking the following

# Finance and Business Development Officer

The Finance and Business Development Officer will ensure a satisfactory professional standard of management, including budgeting, accounting, reporting, costing, development and implementation of financial and administrative procedures of Business Enterprise almed at providing mobility devices and socio economic opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. The work will also include developing business plans and identity marketing strategies, income-generating activities and developing marketing collaterals.

- The candidate must possess the following:

  Bachelor's degree in Business Administration or similar field

  A minimum of 5 years experience in non-profit and private sector In international financial management position. Manufacturing
- setting of business enterprise background is a plus. Good communication skills and the ability to work and cooperate in an interdisiplinary environment, where national ownership and
- securing the program's goals are the primary objectives Business development plans and marketing skills
- Excellent writing and organizational skills
  Willing to be based in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental (20 minutes ride from Cagayan de Oro City) and willing to travel extensively

# Logistics Officer

The Logistics Officer will be responsible in the implementation of the standard logistics policies and procedures. Coordinate, manage and be accountable for the supplies and logistics support, including the procurement, receipts, storage, delivery of finished products to Distribution Units. Provide overall management of the vehicle fleet and consumables monitoring, management/ tracking maintenance and reporting of assets and facilities.

The candidate must possess the following:

Graduate of 4 year course preferably Business Administration

Management and leadership skills

- Flexibility and ability to work well and make decision under stress and potential adverse conditions and willing to work irregular hours
- Strong communication skills
- Experience in procurement and contract negotiations
- Experience in shipping, inventory management and warehousing Willing to be based in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental ( 20 minutes ride from Cagayan de Oro City)

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PLEASE SEND YOUR INQUIRY TO: jadams24@bellsouth.net

## A manufacturing company is in need of: ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

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- than 30 years old CPA preferred or have 3-5 years working experience must be able to do financial statements, costings and
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Warehouse No. 3 & 4 Sunny Realty Compound Sandoval Ave., Pinagbuhatan

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We are a leading manufacturer of quality tin cans in the country. We are URGENTLY looking for competent candidates to fill up our existing

# HR OFFICER

- Male, not over 35 years old
- Lawyer or at least a law graduate
- With knowledge in some facets of Human Resources such as recruitment, benefits and compensation and employee
- Can deal with all types of people Good in oral and written communications

# INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERS

- Male or female not over 30 years old Graduate of Industrial Engineering
- With or without experience

Interested applicants may apply in person bringing along up-to-date resumé and recent photo to:

# ORIENTAL TIN CAN & METAL SHEET MFG.

**Human Resources Department** No. 64 Gen. Luis St., Brgy. Nagkaisang Nayon Novaliches, Quezon City

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- Electrical Engineering graduate
- · Experience in Electrical and Cable products
- · Experience in Marketing and Sales preferable Not more than 30 years old

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- Electronics / Instrumentation graduate
- Experience an advantage

 Not more than 28 years old Resumés may be emailed to pisi@pidt.dsl.net or faxed to 892-09-49.



### **HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILS. INC.**

Incorporated in 1988, Huawei Technologies is a private high-tech enterprise headquartered in Shenzhen, China. Huawei is a leader in providing customized products and solutions to telecommunications operators around the world. Our range of communications network solutions includes wireless, fixed line, optical, datacom, applications and software, handsets and wireless terminals. Having deployed products to more than 300 operators in over 100 countries globally, we take in pride in knowing that we serve 28 of the world's top 50 operators.

Huawei currently has 8 regional headquarters and 85 branch offices worldwide. In 2005, our contract sales amounted to USD 8.2billion, with staff strength of 35,000 people. Thus, in line of our rapid growth, we seek high caliber individuals to join us for mutual development.

# 1. Account Manager

Main Responsibilities

- Understanding customer requirements and feedback on market Information:
- Being involved in all activities to ensure the establishment of the brand; Discovering sales opportunities and achieving sales targets in
- cooperation with the pre-sales team; Being responsible for credit collection with finance team.

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree or above in Telecommunications, Electrical, Computer Science or related area. MBA preferred;
- Minimum two years working experience in telecommunication field; Familiarity with international trade, international law, business management knowledge, credit collection, finance management, and bidding procedure, etc.; Excellent verbal and written English; Fluency in mandarin would be an added advantage.

# 2. Project Finance Manager

Main Responsibilities

- Being responsible for analyzing financing markets, financial status and financing requirements of clients;
  Designing and monitoring project financing proposals for clients;
- Being involved in all activities regarding analysis of market information and project financing risks in order to be able to offer effective references for market decision-maker;
- Being responsible for credit collection from clients.

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree or above in International Finance, Trade, Insurance or related areas:
- Minimum two years working experience in Project Finance in Telecommunications, Capital Construction, Structural Trade, Investment Banking or related fields;
- Knowledge of Philippine laws and business management will be an added advantage;
- Excellent verbal and written English;
- Good communication skills;
- A team player and able to work well in a fast-paced, changing

# 3. HR Manager

Main Responsibilities

- Taking charge of recruitment tasks such as job advertising, resume screening, organizing various tests and interviews with job applicants; Documenting and filing of employee data and relevant info;
- Being responsible for employee payroll, various allowances and benefits; Managing staff canteen and dormitories;
- Monitoring and supervising employees regarding punctuality, attendance, dress code, working attitudes, business ethics and office

Requirements

- Bachelor's or Master's Degree in Human Resources Management,
- Psychology, or Behavioral Science; Minimum 2-3 years working experience in human resources
- Familiar with local labor code or HR related laws; Experience in managing employee benefits, accident and health
- Good communication and interpersonal skills;
- Strong sense of confidentiality and business ethics; Knowledge of mandarin will be an added advantage.

# 4. IT Engineer

Main Responsibilities

- Maintaining a good overview of the day-to-day operational demands and routine operations and facilitating the interface with end users to smoothen the entire Helpdesk and PC Support operations;
- Providing support to new program implementations;
  Dealing with Network/System/Database Admin or equivalent issues; Diagnosing, troubleshooting, assembling and solving computer/laptop
- related problems involving of hardware and software; Handling Server/Storage, Networking administration and
- configuration; Documenting network procedures.

Requirements

- Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology, Computer Science or
- Minimum two years working experience in the similar functions; Specializing in IT/Computer Network/System/Database Admin/Anti
- virus programs or equivalent; Familiar with TCP/IP, Win 2000 Server/Storage, Networking
- administration and configuration; Familiar with Helpdesk and PC Support operations;
- Committed, responsible and customer-oriented.

# 5. Product Manager/Engineer (GSM/CDMA/3G)

Main Responsibilities:

- Working with Account Manager on the planning of competitive strategy including business plan and action plan, based on the business opportunities and threats;
- Supporting GSM/GPRS/EDGE/CDMA/3G pre-sales activities by responding to RFI, RFQ, RFP, preparing and delivering technical presentation and demonstrating to customers in Asia Pacific Region; Working closely with sales team to plan and design a competitive mobile network solutions;
- Marketing of Huawel GSM/GPRS/EDGE/CEMA/3G products, including network concepts and solutions; Supporting GSM/GPRS/EDGE/CDMA/3G product promotion related

Requirements:

Bachelor's degree or above in Telecommunications or related field of study:

- Minimum two years experience in the GSM/GPRS/EDGE/CDMA/
- Solid technical background in telecommunications network and mobile network:
- Hands-on skill and knowledge on GSM/GPRS/EDGE/CDMA/3G network; Good planning and business presentation skills, and able to work
- well in fast-paced, changing environment; Fluency in Mandarin will be an added advantage;
- New graduates with good records are encouraged to apply.

# 6. Product Manager/Engineer (Fixed Network)

Main Responsibilities:

- Working with Account Manager on the planning of competitive strategy including business plan and action plan, based on the business opportunities and threats;
- Supporting NGN/MSAN/DSLAM/PSTN SWITCH pre-sales activities by responding to RFI, RFQ, RFP, preparing and delivering technical presentation and demonstrating to customers in Asia Pacific Region; Working closely with sales team to plan and design a competitive fixed network solutions;
- Marketing of Huawei NGN/MSAN/DSLAM/PSTN SWITCH products, including network concepts and solutions; Supporting NGN/MSAN/DSLAM/PSTN SWITCH product promotion
- related activities.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Telecommunications or related field of study; Minimum two years experience in the NGN/MSAN/DSLAM/PSTN SWITCH environment;
- Solid technical background in telecommunications network and fixed
- network; Hands-on skill and knowledge on NGN/MSAN/DSLAM/PSTN
- SWITCH network; Good planning and business presentation skills, and able to work
- well in fast-paced changing environment; Fluency in Mandarin will be an added advantage;
- New graduates with good records are encouraged to apply.

# 7. Product Manager/Engineer

# (Optical Network)

Main Responsibilities:

- Working with Account Manager on the planning of competitive strategy including business plan and action plan, based on the business opportunities and threats;
- Supporting Optical Network Product pre-sales activities by responding to RFI, RFQ, RFP, preparing and delivering technical presentation and demonstrating to customers in Asia Pacific Region;
- Working closely with sales team to plan and design a competitive Optical network solutions: Marketing of Huawei Optical Network products, including network
- concepts and solutions: Supporting Optical Network product promotion related activities.
- Requirements:

  - Bachelor or Higher degree in Telecommunications or related field of study; Basic SDH&WDM knowledge;
    Minimum two years experience in the Optical Network environment;
    Solid technical background in telecommunications network and
  - Transmission network; Hands-on skill and knowledge on Transmission network; Good planning and business presentation skills, and able to work
  - well in fast-paced changing environment; Fluency in Mandarin will be an added advantage; New graduates with good records are encouraged to apply.

# 8. GSM/CDMA/3G Marketing or Technical Support Engineer

Main Responsibilities Planning and implementing pre-sales marketing activities such as

- market exploration and promotion, or post-sales project implementation and technical support for GSM/CDMA/3G such as on-site survey, installation, commissioning and maintenance; Providing post-sales technical support to customers through remote and on-site trouble-shooting; Providing technical solution and hands-on support on GSM/CDMA/3G.
- Requirements

- Bachelor's degree or above majoring in Telecommunications, Electronics, Electrical, or related area; Minimum one year experience in dealing with mobile communication
- Hands-on skill and knowledge on GSM/GPRS/CDMA network engineering;
- Good communication skills; A team player and able to work well in a fast-paced, changing environment.

# 9. Project Manager

Main Responsibilities

- Planning and supervision of surveying, installing, testing, commissioning, material and logistics forwarding including delivering equipment to site: General controlling over engineering activities including exchanging
- of plans, drawings and other information with customers, approval of equipment layouts and network configuration data; Supervising and control over sub-contractors to strictly comply with
- the relevant conditions of the contract; Participating in bidding activities, identifying implementation requirements from lender documents, planning resources and budget as well as making out solutions for customer implementation demands

and undertaking procurement management when necessary. Requirements

- Minimum two years working experience in telecommunication project management; Bachelor's Degree in Telecommunication Engineering or Electronics
- Engineering.

# 10. Radio Network Planning & Radio **Network Optimization Engineer**

Main Responsibilities

- Be responsible for 2G&3G radio network design and radio network
- performance improvement service delivery; Be responsible for technical marketing and sales support of network
- and technology consulting services; Be responsible for radio network evaluation, network parameters
- design and optimization. Requirements
- Bachelor's degree or above In Electronics, Telecommunications
- Engineering, or related field of study; Fluent in both spoken and written English; At least 2 years working experience in GSM or CDMA, WCDMA is
- Ability to work independently and to build up good customer relations; Good communication skills and ability to work in multi-cultural environment:
- Self-motivated, customer oriented.

# 11. Technical Support Engineer (Switch & Access Network)

Main Responsibilities:

- Performing technical support such as on-site survey, installation, commissioning and maintenance with excellent customer service skills:
- Implementing operation & maintenance solutions on time and
- effectively to fulfill customers' requirements and solve technical issues; Constructing and maintaining up-to-date network information to ensure accurate and sufficient database for maintenance &

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or above majoring in Telecommunications, Electronics, Electrical, or related area;
- Minimum two years working experience in related systems engineering and network design in the telecommunications and/or data communication environment:
- Experience in both service provider and telecommunication equipment vendor environment preferred;
- Able to work well in a fast-paced, changing environment.

# 12. Application and Software Engineer (A&S)

Main Responsibilities:

- Being responsible for IN (Intelligent Network) project implementation,
- which includes installation and testing; Being responsible for Intelligent Network routine maintenance; Being responsible for SMS (Short Message System), MMS and other Data Services project implementation, which includes installation and
- Being responsible for Data Services routine maintenance; Being responsible for A&S related technical activities.

- Requirements: Bachelor's degree or above majoring in Computer Science, Telecommunications Engineering or related area;
- Minimum one-year working experience in telecom industry; At least one-year practical experience in Unix, working experience in HP-UX, SUN-OS, IBM-AIX;
- Knowledgeable in telecommunication and CCS7 system;
- Knowledgeable in Database systems, work experience in Informix,
- Ability to work independently and to build up good customer relations; Good Communication skills and ability to work in a team; Self-motivated, flexible, enthusiastic and fluent in both oral and written
- Must be ready to work under pressure in all kinds of working environments; Below 28 years old.

# 13. Bidding Design Engineer

- Main Responsibilities: Completing overseas project survey design by making use of engineering design platform;
  - Providing bidding support to overseas projects with respect to survey design and ensuring smooth engineering survey and construction; Assisting in collecting and sorting out information about engineering design, timely reporting on various investigational data and providing fundamental basis for the perfection of project bidding and design information system.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or above majoring in Electronics, Electrical, Telecommunications, Computer or related area;
- Minimum three years experience in related systems and project engineering in the telecommunications environment;
- Experience in both service provider and equipment vendor environment preferred;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills; Frequent business travels in the Asia Pacific region will be required;
- Fluency in Mandarin will be an added advantage 14. Outsourcing Product Manager

- Main Responsibilities: Supporting project bidding and post-bidding technical clarifications; Cooperating with project group during bidding period such as preparing bidding documents, SOC, giving technical suggestions,
- and choosing suppliers for clients; Frequent traveling around Southeast Asia region to communicate
- with suppliers and clients; Clarifying technical aspects with clients such as change of product configuration, number of units and quotations after winning a bid.
- Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, preferably with an MBA, with relevant experience of not less than one year in Telecom
- industry or any technical/engineering fields; Have basic telecom knowledge, especially on fixed and mobile Network as well as 3G; Have knowledge and experience of telecom correlative equipment (Microwave, PCM, Equipment Room Power Supply, Test Tools, Optical Fiber Cable and Copper Cable, Shelters, Fire Suppression/
- detection, Air Conditioning Systems, etc.);
- Have good communication skills to discuss with customers about the required products; Be an excellent negotiator with leadership skills; Be familiar with office environment and automation system, email

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# **CCF PHILIPPINES**

An International NGO Working for the Well-Being of Children

# FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Christian Children's Fund (CCF) is an international non-profit, non political and non-sectarian child development agency that operates in over 30 countries. It has been working in the Philippines for over thirty years now implementing programs in the areas of basic education, health and nutrition, water and sanitation, micro-enterprise development and emergency programs. In partnership with 49 community-based organizations, CCF Philippines assists more than 216,000 children and their families.

It is currently seeking development professional to take on the role of a Policy

Operations and Research Officer The overall responsibility is to lead the res and documentation elforts of the Country Office and to establish a monitoring and uation system that captures results of program interventions Reporting to the Program Manager, the successful candidate will be part of the country office's technical support team, combining both strategic & hands-on skills to build on CCF's strong track record and commitment to addressing child poverty in the Philippines.

The successful candidate must have the following qualifications:

Work experience in community based programs/projects

University Dogree in relevant course At least three to live years experience as a development professional with strong exposure/involvement in research and development, program planning implementation, monitoring and evaluation Domonstrated high level of interpersonal and cross-cultural skills Can work with minimal supervision and perform effectively under pressure

Excollent oral and written communication skills A good grasp of children's issues at national and global levels a distinct advantage An attractive remuneration package will be negotiated according to qualifications &

nterested applicants may send their application letter addressing the position criteria outlingo here together with detailed Curriculum Vitae with 3 references & contact details to coftpo@ccfphllippines.org.ph or coftpo@pldtdsl.net not later than February 28, 2006. Applications can also be posted to CCF Philippines Office, 8th Floor Strata 100 Building, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Due to the volume of applications we receive, we shall contact shortlisted applicants only.

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PERP

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We know you're out there I oute the best at what you do and it's time to do it some place new. Why not here? We're growing like crazy & this means we are in serious need of expert help If you end up here, there will be national & international accounts to try your talents There will be all the raves you deserve & an actual chance to help shape a company's destiny How many people get to say that at the end of the day? You might

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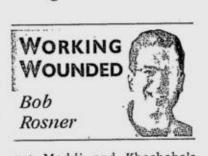
# How can you become more resilient at work?

DEAR WW: I REMEMBER when work was really easy. These days everything seems like it's a pain. The problem is that I feel like I'm becoming less resilient. Any thoughts on how I can become better able to handle all the garbage at work?

Breaking Not Bending

One of my dad's proudest moments occurred shortly when he had most of his stomach removed because of an ulcer. His doctor told him that he needed to quit drinking, so my dad went out and proudly downed 13 Manhattans.

My dad enjoyed 86 years of drinking and smoking. So when I think of resilient, I think of him. My dad was born with his resilience, but the good news is that we can all learn how to be more resilient. I've listed some strate-



out Maddi and Khoshaba's book, "Resilience at Work' (Amacom, 2005). The book is based on a 12-year study of Illinois Bell Telephone employees during a time when the company was downsized by almost half.

Are you committed? There is more resilience when a job warrants full attention, imagination and effort. It is easy to be committed to a job you love. It's more challenging to commit to a job that has challenging bosses, colleagues or customers. I'm not saying that long as you remain in a job it gies below. For more, check you dislike, simply that as best of it.



Do you feel a sense of conyou need to love something makes sense to try to make the trol? Many people write to me about jobs that make

Some jobs will do that to you. But there are often opportunities to gain some small sense of control by serving on a task force, agreeing to tackle a difficult problem, etc. There are often opportunities to assert yourself but you usually have to go looking for them, they won't come looking for you.

Do you accept challenges? Often the bigger the challenge, the more room you'll have for mistakes and failures. So I always would gravitate to the really tough problems, figuring that I'd get a longer leash for agreeing to tackle them. That said, I'm not big on suicide missions. But often, if you look hard enough you just may find situations where a particular assignment isn't as tough as people make it out

Do you have allies? I'm a kingwounded.com.)

them feel totally powerless. big believer in having people watch my back at work. How can you make this happen? Start watching other people's backs. It's amazing how many people will repay your support by looking out for you.

Do you maintain a sense of humor? I'm not suggesting that everyone should be a stand up comic. But I do believe that everyone should be able to laugh at themselves, your coworkers, your boss and your company. A sense of humor is the most important tool that I've found for overcoming the workplace blahs.

Follow these tips and you might not live any longer, but at least you'll probably die with a smile on your face.

(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@wor-

# 'I don't have experience managing organizational communications'

By Tita Datu Puangco

I USED TO WRITE FOR A MAgazine, a part of my career that I enjoyed very much. Due to the increased financial needs of my family, I decided to join the corporate world. I have been assigned as a communications specialist to take care of organizational communications, working as a team with a layout artist and photographer. My problem is I don't have the experience or exposure to organizational communications. My experience is in writing and teaching high school students.

What do you suggest I do? What books can I read that would give me some ideas? I am scheduled to present next week to my boss who is asking me for "some kind of a plan" and budget for our small unit.

Congratulations on your new job! You are in a state of transition and it is understandable why you feel some anxiety about the requirements of the new job. You have the skills of writing and teaching, two vital competencies needed for successful organizational communications. Effective organizational communications require the ability to express oneself. However, these are foundational skills and you still need to acquire the ability to plan, program and implement organizational communications

The first step is for you and your teammate to engage in a kind of assessment. Interview the key people and leaders in your organization about their expectations of your unit. From their perspective, what would they con-Challenged Specialist sider as key result areas for the that can cause future problems.

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

function? Clarify their expectations and performance standards. Then, undertake key stake-

holder analysis or to use a communication term, audience analysis. As a group, identify your key audiences or stakeholders. Of each of the stakeholders, identify the current situation in terms of how the stakeholder group may be feeling or thinking, then identify the idealized future state for the stakeholder again in terms of thinking and feeling. Feeling is important because frequently it is the feeling factor if neglected

Then, study the gap between the current and future states and develop the action plans to close the gap. You may also consider the basic positioning you want to take towards the particular audience. Based on your purposes, you can choose to be reactive, proactive and interactive.

Then you can move on to the next step, you can develop your communications plan. Per relevant audience, develop the appropriate messages, the media, means and techniques to ex-

ecute your action plans. want you recognize to create happens when something hapmore impact in organizational communications. One is the fact that visual communications is superior to memos or directives. Someone once said, a picture is worth a thousand words. People today are more visual than in the past. They are barraged by televi-

sion, the Internet and electronic The challenge is for you is how to call their attention given all these stimuli in their environment. The other is to use stories to convey messages so that they become memorable and meaningful.

Three books that I treasure most that may bring in new ideas on organizational communications are "The Tipping Point," "The GE Work-Out" and "Simplicity." Let me begin with "The Tipping Point" by Malcolm Gladwell. It proposes the theory that little things can make a big difference. He likened communications that "tip" epidemics-

they occur because of the extraordinary efforts of a There are two trends that I few select carriers. Tipping also pens to transform the epidemic agent itself. He names these people as connectors, mavens and owners. Knowing these key people in your organization will enable you to quickly disseminate information.

"GE Work Out" by Dave Ulrich and the other writers of the book demonstrate how to implement GE's revolutionary method of busting bureaucracy and attacking organizational problems. This book gives you an idea how you can generate greater productivity and empowerment within the organization. It teaches techniques like brainstorming and town hall meetings to generate ideas, present 892-2896 or 892-2898.)

and defend them in a pub- lic forum and to facilitate quick decisions by superiors.

Finally a book by Bill Jensen, entitled "Simplicity: The New Competitive Advantage." It talks about simplicity, how to remove the clutter from communications and how to simplify work. He says that in a world of more, better and faster simplicity works.

Hope you find the books. Enjoy the challenging world of organizational communications.

(Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. E-mail feedback at advice@ancillaedc. com.ph or call tel. nos. 892-2895,

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# REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL



Gospel: Mark 1: 40-45

Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."

# Incurable lepers

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

MY REFLECTION ON TODAY'S GOSPEL HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH ANOTHER KIND OF LEProsy-that which doesn't show on the skin but corrupts us nonetheless. Its symptoms are bad habits, ingratitude, conceit, insensitivity to others' feelings, etc. All of us, in varying degrees, have this kind of leprosy within us.

In today's story, Jesus, "moved with pity," gives the healing touch to lepers and literally cleanses and makes them whole again just by willing it. This healer's image reminds me of "Mr. G," a certain manager I had worked with in the past who was so generous it seemed he would die if he could not give-and forgive.

Mr. G wasn't a "rich kid" born with the proverbial silver spoon in his mouth, but somehow he had always something to dip into when people would come to him for financial assistance. And how they came, and asked, received, and took advantage of him! The driver, the clerks, the delivery boy, the secretary—all of them had in one way or the other benefited from his largesse. Also from his "amnesia" when it came to payments. Only the most conscientious would bother to pay him back in full. Yet Mr. G didn't seem to mind much, nor was he impoverished by the unpaid debts. This manager was so openhanded that the more pragmatic characters in the workplace would call him "tanga" (stupid) behind his back. But was he really stupid? Or was he inwardly inspired by the generosity of Jesus who just gave and gave and never minded if anyone thanked Him at all? Coworkers like Mr. G are a test of our integrity, which is most manifested during the eight hours we spend each day in the workplace. Are we greedy or grateful? Are we "clean" or would we rather be incurable lepers? (E-mail the author at teresa\_de\_manila@yahoo.com)

# $A \, Healing \, Boss$ By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

"FAST FOOD WORKER KILLS BOSS ..." SAYS A SUBTITLE OF A NEWS ITEM ON A NATIONAL PAPER' last Feb. 4. This sad news makes me ask "What do workers expect from their boss, or anyone they consider their superior in work?" I suppose many would prefer a boss who is concerned not only of the work itself, the production output, the efficiency and effectiveness of the workers but also of the feelings and aspirations of the workers. They will certainly dream of an ideal superior who is like Jesus in today's Gospel, who is "moved with pity" and ready to "touch" everyone, and who strongly desires the workers' total welfare—including the healing of their psycho-spiritual hurts and satisfaction of all kinds of needs.

But the worker's expectations of his boss would spring from his values in life and his understanding of what are important in life. The worker who considers smooth interpersonal relationship more. satisfying than the routine, machine-like transactions and task-oriented dealings in the workplace will most likely expect his boss to be more of a friend, a brother or even a father to him than just a

task master or worse a slave-driver.

When such expectations are shared also by the supervisors, managers and even owners of the company, business and the workplace would be more homey and more human. The management which accepts Jesus, His teachings and examples as important elements in its corporate mission and culture will have bosses who, like Jesus, are "healers," who would manage in ways that everyone may "be made clean" or healed-experience authentic joy, harmony and peace. (E-mail the author at mfvg@sky inet.net)



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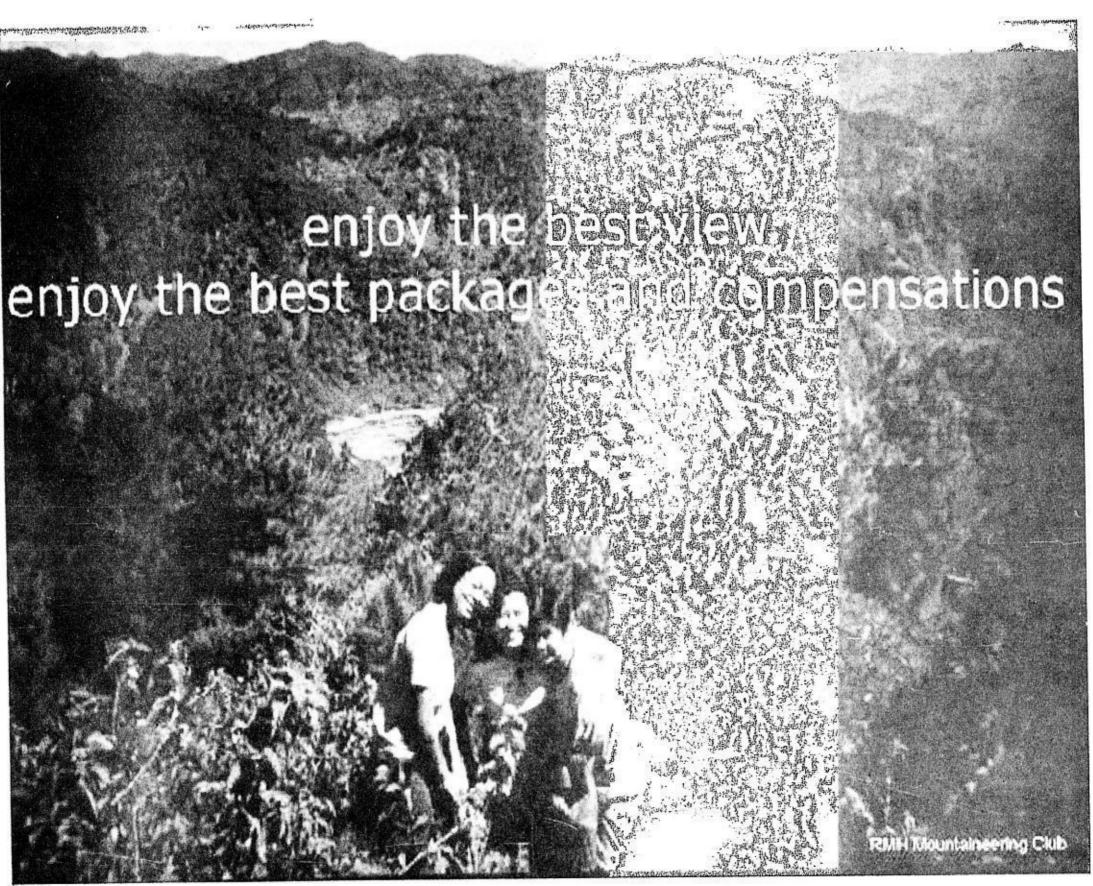
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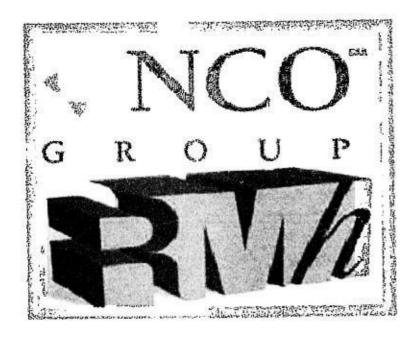
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# RAGNAROK









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**PUGAD BABOY** 

BY POL MEDINA JR.









WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE COMICS STRIP? To better improve the Inquirer Comics Sunday section, we'd like to know what your favorite comic strips are:

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# **MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM**

BY MIKE PETERS



ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN













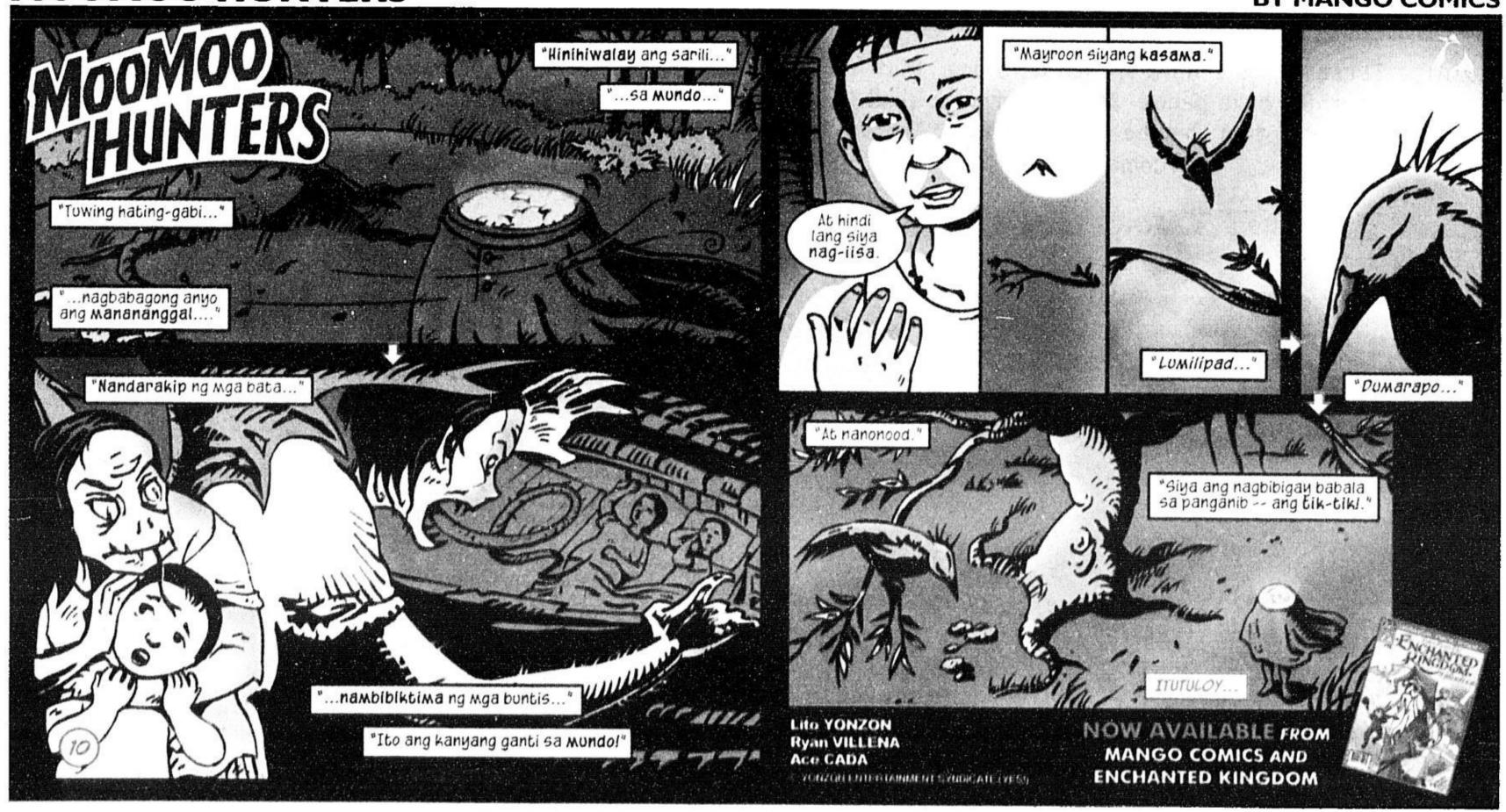
# INDAY WANDA

# BY BLOG CALIGUIA



# **MOOMOO HUNTERS**

# **BY MANGO COMICS**



# LROUBLECOMESunday

# **GARFIELD**

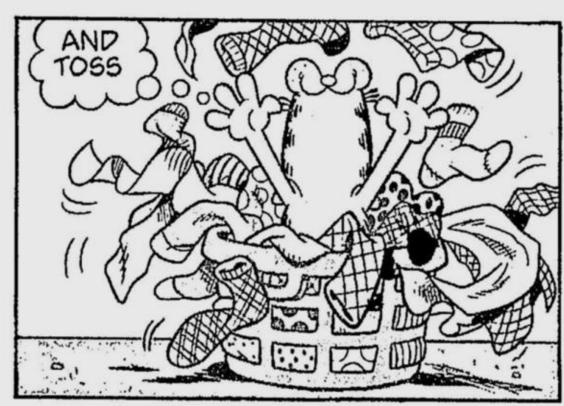
BY JIM DAVIS

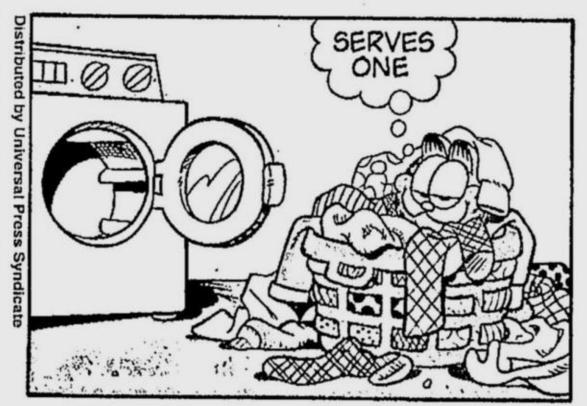






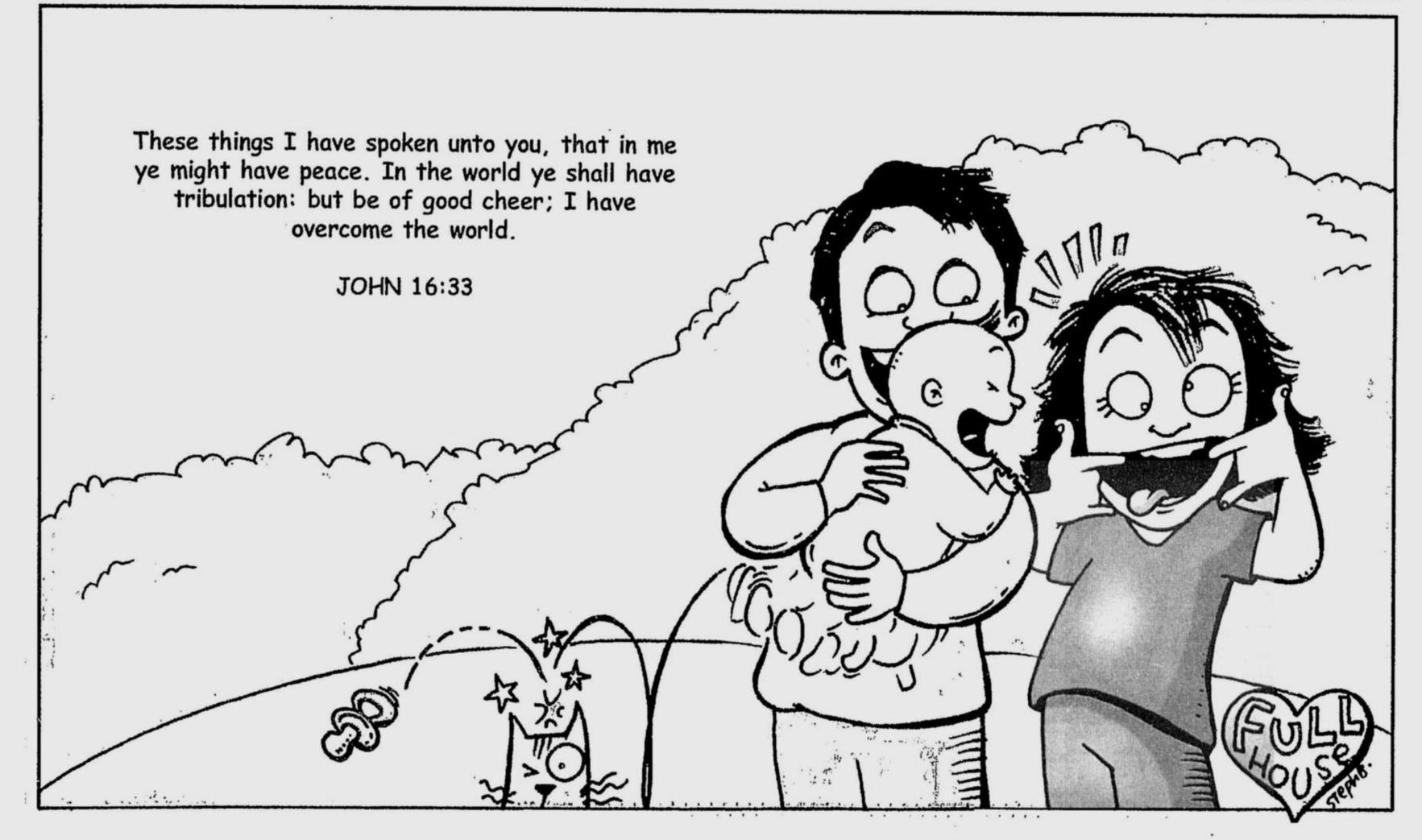






# **FULL HOUSE**

BY STEPH BRAVO



Sunday 12, 2006
Sunday

# 

DEREK RAMSAY

Ladies:
This

with a

would rather have his treeted in

and a good trisbee game

by Joy Rojas pbotograpbs by Romy Homillada

Let the rumors fly: For actor and model Derek Ramsay, love can wait as he tackles a breakout role in "Ang Panday," and his days are filled with passion—for sports, that is

To page 2

Sunday Inquirer Magazine

February 12, 2006

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# Many Kings of One Language

It was a difficult time for the islands. Most of the tribes wanted to go to the moon but had to decide on which language. This led to many violent deaths, the rape of fabulous dreams, so that only the elders slept at night, while the young people danced to keep awake, twisting their bodies this way and that accent. At the bars they ordered syntax at random, drank wildly, all tongues in abandon. The bolder ones expelled grammar as they did the smoke from pidgin tobacco. Phonemes were murdered in the dark, contractions extended while the most personal of pronouns were roped up and beaten to an antecedent's pulp. Italics w ent out the window when phrases were written. Nouns were emasculated, verbs cross-conjugated, according to the dowry for protest. Divorce of lips from hearts and homes forced the weakest into water, there to struggle with moans before drowning. The strongest made it back to shore, succored by kings of one speech and one speech alone. Everyone, everyone was led up many towers of perfect communication until they reached that silent golden orb in the sky they once called by many names, but now one and the same. When they looked down past clouds of syllables with no shame they saw their earth as a sad source of differences now faded into echoes of swords brandished in utter defense of words.

Alfred A. Yuson

# A Villanelle for Billie Holiday

Just to imagine that I see you there At Café Society, lilt your voice, Singing with a gardenia on your hair—

Count Basie giving your songs the best care, What an experience, and I would rejoice Just to imagine that I see you there

And certainly it would be more than fair
To be around when you bring down the house
Singing with a gardenia on your hair

Singing such as "Strange Fruit" with such a rare Nuance as would make me resort to lies Just to imagine that I see you there

And is that Louis Armstrong in a chair?
And then you turn slowly towards him, oh yes.
Singing with a gardenia on your hair.

And thank you, Lady Day, you've made me dare Write this, and with eyes closed lounge on the chaise Just to imagine that I see you there Singing with a gardenia on your hair

Simeon Dumdum Jr.

# Whereas

He has forgotten the spot where they first met.

He has forgotten the spot.

He has forgotten

what is between tragedy & a trampoline.

He has forgotten how his speech limits him,

how he feels no emotion

he has no names for. He has forgotten how the world ends.

He has forgotten the world ends where punctuation begins.

He has forgotten how to forget; & as if forgetting for the first time,

he writes.

Where there is speech: breakdown.

• A flat-iron in her chest.

A cup of water in the groin.
Her navel a dry keyhole.

Where neither heart nor home exists, he is perfect.

The world assumes he is wordless.

(Perfection is in the mouth.)

Angelo V. Suárez

Erratum: The bottom photograph in the story "The Champion's Mother Refused to Let Fate Knock Her Out" (SIM, Feb. 5, 2006) was taken by Paul Bernaldez. SIM regrets the omission.

Derek...from page !



EARD a good love story lately?
The romance between Remedios Paggao and Derek Arnold Ramsay began many years ago in England, where the Filipina Remedios managed a hotel on the block where British policeman Derek Arnold did his rounds.

Despite numerous and wealthy suitors, Remedios fell for the humble bobby, who was likewise smitten as he watched her walk in and out of the hotel and limousines. In time, the two wed, raised a family and settled down here, where Derek Arnold founded an electronic security business from scratch. Today, his guardless and gunless Guard-All Security Systems provides state-of-the-art equipment to such high-profile institutions as the World Trade Center, Ayala

Stock Exchange and Manila's slew of embassies. Meanwhile, Remedios and Derek Arnold live happily in their Tagaytay home.

As luck would have it, a love story of this caliber continues to elude Derek Arthur Ramsay, the eldest of the couple's two boys and second of five kids. It's a week before Valentine's, and the 28-year-old commercial model, host and actor hasn't a date or plans, even though he's been romantically linked with actress Angelika de la Cruz and rumored to be cozy with another star, Jeni Hernandez.

Tall, lanky, dusky

Still, the likelihood of this tall, lanky and dusky-skinned bachelor being alone on the 14th is nil. He can do as he did last year and have dinner and drinks in a fancy hotel with 15 of his Ultimate Frisbee teammates. Or he can get together with the lady he spent Valentine's Day with two years ago. "My ex-girlfriend is in town, so I might go out with her to maintain the friendship," he says. "I don't want to have enemies."

Even the prospect of staying at home isn't such a bad idea, as "there is always someone there"—including his Siberian Husky, Damien. "It's nice to have someone around," concedes Ramsay, who was in a three-year relationship, and whose love life right now is mostly of the long-distance kind. "But I don't look for it. If it happens, it happens."

Acting, not surprisingly, just happened for the Englishborn, UK- and US-educated Ramsay, who was discovered some 10 years ago when a talent scout walked up to him while he and his dad were at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. "I said no because I was camera-shy," recalls Ramsay, who was on vacation from school in England. "But my dad said, 'Oh, do it." He then developed a routine, shuttling between school abroad and shoots here. Soon, he was getting everybody's attention as a commercial model (for Close-Up, Oxygen, Addict Mobile, San Miguel Beer) and host (of the showbizy "ETK" and MTV, where he won the VJ Hunt in 2001 and is currently the star of the dating show "Get Hitched").

Happy with the fast work and money, he rejected all offers to act, including one from Kris Aquino, who asked him on national TV if he would he her leading man in a forthcoming big screen comedy. "I said no. So when they made me join 'Game K N Ba?,' she introduced me as the guy who turned her down. Next thing I know we're appearing together in the San Miguel Beer ad!" he says with a laugh.

Fallen angel

He also declined the role of the fallen angel Kahimu on the ABS-CBN fantaserye "Ang Panday," but the network's persistent calls and his desire to do something more challenging than a commercial saw him finally give in. And what a challenge it was: Ramsay, who dons a costume a la X-Men's Wolverine, went through wushu training and acting workshops to play the bitter gladiator who joins forces with Panday (Jericho Rosales) in the blacksmith's search for his wife Eden (Heart Evange-



Survey of Brankley or a without the state of the



That, however, was the easy part. For the first-time actor, if it wasn't the waiting in between shoots, it was shooting his fight scenes with little sleep that proved taxing. "I also missed my bed and my bathroom," says Ramsay with a laugh, after his scenes were shot in Mani-

la, Laguna, Bohol, Cavite and Bulacan. "And I missed my friends and playing sports, which I couldn't do for two months."

In any case, he's already agreed to appear in another fantaserye, this time as a mentor to kids. "They say it's going to be more difficult because children are involved. But you know what? After 'Panday' and Bohol, I don't think anything could be harder."

He'd also like to try his hand at drama and comedy, but more out of curiosity than to attract a wider audience. The *masa* may already know who he is (they pronounce his name "Direk"), but if he had to choose, Ramsay would pick freedom over fame any day.

"I love the fact that I can just take off any time," says Ramsay, who traveled around Europe and Africa for two months on a whim after the SMB ad, devoted the entire Christmas season to his family when his "Panday" shoot wrapped up, and just came back from an unplanned weekend in Baguio.

"I'm not the type who won't finish what I committed to do; if I'm scheduled for work I'll do it. But I won't sign a contract with anyone saying that they own me, so I have to do this and that."

His true love

Besides, an actor's hectic life will leave him little time to pursue his true love—sports. Ultimate Frisbee is the passion of the moment for Ramsay, who played rugby, cricket and water polo in England, was on the national soccer team and Toyota Otis Letran for two PBL seasons, and got his tan from a round of golf the day before his interview.

As a member of the Philippine Team, he helped beat other Asian countries in an international Ultimate Frisbee tournament held three months ago at the Manila Polo Club. Come November, the team hopes to fare just as well when it competes in the world championship in Australia

Ramsay, who coaches an award-winning team called the Disk Devils and likes the idea of being able to teach sports to kids someday, is known in the circuit as "Kabayo." "The first time I played, I couldn't throw a disk," he relates sheepishly. "So they said, 'Derek, fetch!' Then they'd throw the disk to the end zone and I'd run and catch it."

All that physical activity has given him a nicely buff body, which he has displayed many times over on giant highway billboards and glossy magazines. Personally, we haven't seen it, as he politely requested to keep his clothes on for the cover shoot. "In my last four shoots, I was topless. I'd also like to be known as somebody who wears a shirt, too," chuckles Ramsay, who ironically never wore one when he modeled for the clothing brand Oxygen.

Fair enough. After this interview, it's clear that Ramsay's most attractive features are not his chiseled chest or washboard abs. "People look at me and immediately they think I'm antipatiko (a snob) and masungit (ill-tempered). But I'm the complete opposite," he says. "I'm approachable and very easy to talk to. I'm simple, easy-going and I'm a good listener; I tend to make people's problems my own. I'm also a very family-oriented guy. And I have a lot of patience, but I have to admit, I have a temper. But I'm not out to hurt anyone," he assures. "So I get mad, and you say sorry, I get sucked in right away."



HE books sprawled on the dining table bear titles like the Oxford Dictionary, Webster's, "Panitikan ng Pilipino" and a few psychology reference titles. A stack of diplomatic passports are at the other end, with albums of IDs on another.

Sixty-two-year-old Alfonso Austria collects United Nations memorabilia, displayed in their Bagtikan, Makati home. Wife Grace looks back on all these with fondness. They have lived for more than two decades in 46 war and demilitarized zones, where Alfonso held positions as a radio communications technician and a staff member of the United Nations Peacekeeping Group, a unit under the Security Council. He even supervised construction of 200-foot high communication towers.

Grace said it was she who actually applied for the UN post, but pregnant with their fourth child, she passed the opportunity on to Alfonso. The UN stint opened opportunities for the family. Apart from the attractive work package Alfonso was entitled to, their daughters were able to attend American-run international schools. "It was a productive life away from home. I was a full-time housewife. I stayed behind to attend to our domestic affairs. I supervised the studies of the children. Alfonso came home only on weekends, but he put food on the table for all of us," Grace says.

Old age together

When all four daughters had grown up and had started looking outward for college studies, the Austria couple buckled down and discussed spending their old age together. Alfonso was certain; he wanted to go back to school. Grace was clueless; she could not specify what she wanted.

But one thing was definite—school wasn't her cup of tea.

"I knew school would be difficult for us at this stage. I don't know a course that fits our needs, and which university to go to," Grace sighs. So she thought about adding units to cap studies in Chemical Engineering, and contemplated taking a course in Foreign Service because of her previous exposure abroad. Perhaps in a Management course, she and Alfonso might end up classmates.

"Considering my age, I doubt very much if a company would be interested in hiring me. The pressure of studies is too much to think of, and the opportunities for us are no longer good," she adds.

But Grace was convinced that she should give studies a try. She considered becoming a professional counselor someday, as she loved listening to other people's woes. She's the type who offers a shoulder to cry on, who goes out of her way for people in their darkest moments. She chose a course in BS Psychology.

Next thing the Austria couple knew, they were on their way to the Lyceum of the Philippines. Grace knew it from her Mapua days. "We approached the registrar's head, Tess Pilapil, to discuss our plans. She went over the requirements, and convinced us to give school a shot." "The meeting was very warm," describes Alfonso. "Grace instantly liked the programs, and we honestly felt at home in the campus."

Alfonso decided to pursue BS Management because he wanted to manage his own school someday. Grace pushed through with BS Psychology because she wanted to be a professional counselor.

The back-to-school news was the big thing among the couple's kith and kin. The Texas- and Connecticut-based Austria daughters jumped for joy. They threw their all-out support behind their parents. Each started sending books to the Philippines. The e-mails became regular. The long distance calls became

After living in 46
war zones, Alfonso
and Grace Austria
decided to earn their
college degrees the oldfashioned way—even if
they are both in their sixties

frequent, replete with words of encouragement. On the home front, the two limbered up with the aid of a refresher book Alfonso had found in National Book Store.

### New chapter

Definitely, a new chapter in their lives had begun. On the opening day of school, Grace waded through curious onlookers. She overheard one saying, "Why are they still in school? What are they doing here? Aren't they too old for this stuff?" There was a group that followed them to the end of the hallway, making sure that what had passed before them was real.

The university's seamstress blinked thrice at Grace, grappling with the idea that she was a student, as she measured her for the school uniform. "The campus is an eclectic mix of young boys and girls. Some looked serious, others sim-

ply whiled away time, and a few listless ones were simply standing by," Grace observes.

Alfonso frowned at the general bad behavior, however. "Majority of our young classmates are wild, so noisy in the classroom, and the boys are always talking about their girlfriends. The rampant texting interrupts the flow of lectures so much that I wonder where their parents are."

The nurturing ways of Grace has endeared her to her young classmates. She reminds them to be respectful of their parents. She knew she and Alfonso would have a widely different viewpoint from their younger classmates, which they'd rather keep to themselves. The disparity between the two worlds did not prevent the couple from associating with the young, however. For example, Grace enjoys chatting with her seatmate, Aileen Cusi. Alfonso relishes conversations with his Japanese classmate, Hilyn. But if there's one thing that matters to both, it's not a peer group, but the idea of time fast running out on

# No difference

That they're called "Daddy" or "Mommy" by classmates, and "Sir" or "Madam" by professors made no difference. They are bound by rules and reg-

ulations. Now in their second year of college, they report to school four times a week, write their term papers, and are learning to download information from the Internet. Alfonso proudly describes their morning rituals: "We are up by 5 a.m., leave the house an hour later, and as soon as I put my hands on the steering wheel, Grace presses the beads of the holy rosary to start our morning prayers." "Each day is God's plan for us," Grace says.

Alfonso and Grace are quickly adapting to the pressures of studies. Alfonso has already confided to Grace some of the effects of stress on him, being hypertensive, diabetic, and saddled with high cholesterol. "If taking the subject again is necessary to pass, so be it; I'd rather pursue my studies at a leisurely pace, or the whole thing would totally stress me out," he says.

But it's a different story with Grace, who recounts how she sulked about the 74 raw score points she got from a major subject. She also once submitted a test. paper full of erasures, to the utter dis-. may of the professor. "Naiinis talaga ako (I got so frustrated)," she says, wiping sweat off her face. "Worse, I am at a loss" when questions are paraphrased; they become tricky. I really feel I have to improve if I want to stay on." By the couple's own admission, they did well in recitations but kept getting low scores in, written exams. "The problem begins. when we are asked to write down our... thoughts, and we get mentally blocked ... We need extra effort."

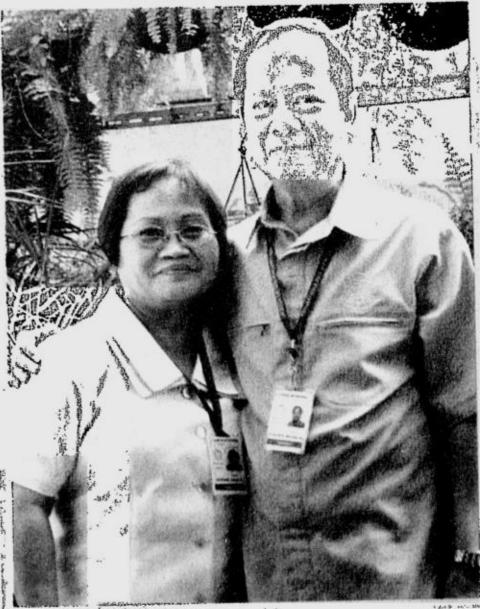
By choice, Grace pops memory pillsthrice a day, especially during examweek. Alfonso does not.

If school opened a new dimension in their lives, the Austria couple looks at it as a lifelong commitment. "We want to live for a purpose. We want to contribute to the community where we live, and we look forward to being of service," Grace says. She thinks of this purpose constantly, knowing counseling is a life mission. Alfonso's own school, however, will be on the outskirts of Manila. His plans already include providing scholarships, housing and livelihood to deserving students.

# Joint effort

"We derive so much happiness from seeing how far we have gone. Alfonso and I have had different achievements, but it has always been a joint effort when making family decisions, with the guidance of God." The daughters, now gainfully employed, share their parents' passion for responsible lifestyles. Ana Brenda is a lymphoma research supervisor, Shiela is an anaesthetist, Myra is a teacher and Helainne, a practicing dentist. All are working in the United States

Ask Alfonso and Grace about earning more wealth, and Grace says they don't think much about it; school brings more mundane concerns. "We don't believe age limits a person's purpose in life. But everything has to succeed by His plans, and not ours. These days, Alfonso and I just pray together for true happiness, here and in the afterlife."



RUDY ESPERAS

# Sweethearts for last 14 years are like husband and wife, but 1º Separate IIVes

HIS is, without a doubt, a love story. But it's an unusual love story because it's about two people who got a second chance at love, and who found something entirely new without giving up what they had become. Thus, there was hardly any reason for conflict or irritation or selfishness. And in seeing the best of each other and sharing the happiest of moments, love could only bloom, without becoming stunted in its growth or falling by the wayside, a casualty of the often bitter battle between men and

For Terry Bautista, 87, and Bella Quiazon, 76, love has been sweet, because they can share it while still living separate lives.

They had their first love many years ago. Demetrio "Terry" Bautista was chairman of the board and president of Fil-American Hardware Co. Inc., a successful businessman who started his enterprise in 1955, in a field dominated by Filipino-Chinese operations. He had studied at the Far Eastern University and married a townmate from Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija, Leonila "Nelly" Abesamis. The couple had five children, including daughter Marilou Garcia-Morera, who joined us for this interview to help jog Dad's memory.

Since last year, Terry has been suffering from a kidney problem, and has been wheelchair-bound and undergoing dialysis three times a

# Partner in life

Nelly had died of a cerebral hemorrhage from a stroke in 1978, when Terry was not yet 60. "I was newly married then," Marilou recalls. After a couple of years of mourning, Terry slowly began socializing again, and even dating. In fact, he had had a steady date for a few years when he met the second woman who would become his virtual, if not literal, partner in life.

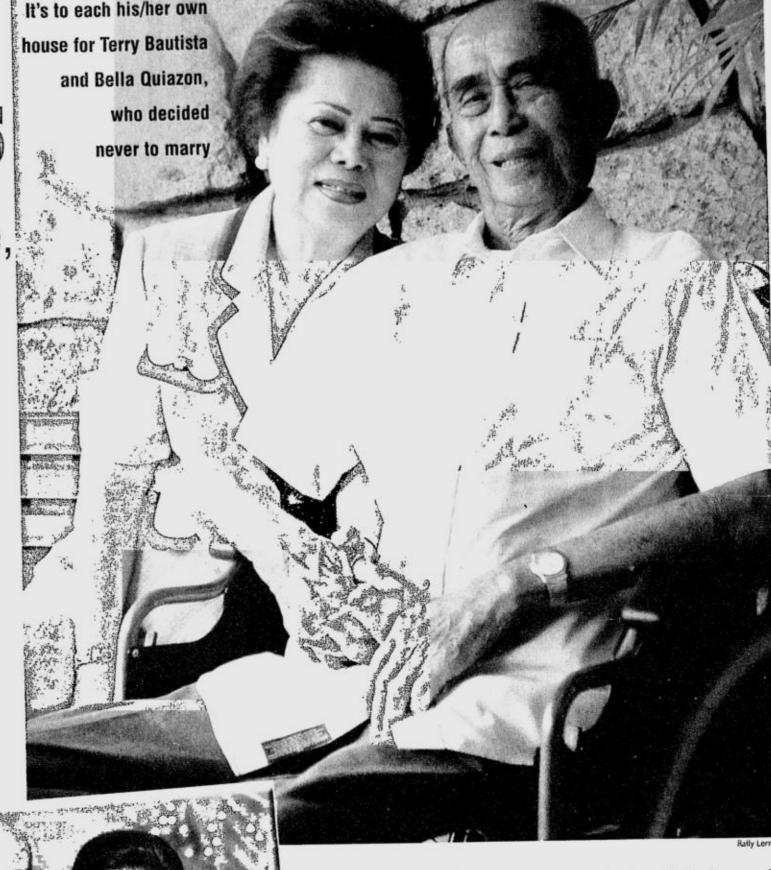
It was 1992. Terry, then 76, was part of a regular walking group that did the rounds of Greenhills Shopping Center two or three mornings a week; the rest of the days, this active senior citizen played golf. Also in the same walking group was the pert widow Bella Quiazon, whose husband, Army General Alfredo Quiazon, had died when Bella was only 57. When she and Terry met, she was 62.

"We talked about a lot of common friends, because we were townmates," recalls Bella, who also came from Nueva Ecija; she had gone to school at St. Mary's College in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya. After her marriage, Bella had remained a housewife, and the couple also raised five children, until Alfredo succumbed to bone cancer.

"I hardly even went out for two years after," Bella recalls. "But I didn't close my door, because I knew I was pretty," she says with a laugh. Seriously, she remembers praying to God for a good match if she should ever find another, as her late husband had been a kind man. "And then, he came along," she says, glancing lovingly at Terry.

Terry admits he had dated other women, and has always had an eye for pretty females. But the main thing that drew him to Bella, he says over and over, is that she is "very understanding." The two first went with another couple on a foursome one evening, to a Korean restaurant in Virra Mall, Bella recalls, and then off to Nina's Papagayo for some dancing. "He really liked to dance," Bella says of Terry. "We share the same likes and dis-

We are family: Bella and Terry with their respective children



which, Bella swears, they have never quarreled or fought. "When he's in a bad mood, I just keep quiet," she says. "I just don't contradict anything she says," Terry counters. "We're both very patient and understanding with each

They decided never to marry, mainly because Terry had promised his late wife that he wouldn't. Bella didn't make any such promise, but she doesn't mind; she'll never leave Terry just because of that, she assures. Sometimes, though, when

she's identified as Mrs. Bautista, she just nods. "Just to keep a long story short. And also to keep people from getting malicious thoughts."

Do such thoughts bother them? "No, we don't care," Bella is adamant. "We have nothing to hide." "That's what I like about her," Terry says. "She never, ever hides anything." He proudly introduces Bella to people as his sweetheart—that's what they call each other.

The interesting part is, the subject of living together never came up, either. Terry lives in his Greenhills home, with his youngest daughter Tess and her family; Bella lives in Cubao, with her son and his family. Still, Bella has sent food to Terry every day, without fail, for the last 15 years. "When my dad still went to his office in Cubao, which was near Tita Bella's house, she would send lunch everyday for all of us in the office," Marilou says, marveling. And Bella is apparently a fabulous cook. "If I don't do it kasi, I feel bad. I like to take care of people."

Every night, Terry calls to say good night, and the two talk about what he wants to eat the next day before exchanging I love you's.

# Date day

Saturday is date day for the couple. That means Mass in the late afternoon, dinner and a show, before Terry brings Bella home to Cubao. That could be an earlier evening if he has a golf game the next day, which Bella never objects to. "He has his own activities, and I have mine. I still walk, and I play mahjong with my friends once in a while."

Immaculately coiffed, Bella says she got used to being a military officer's wife, always ready and dressed for an occasion, so she visits the beauty parlor regularly.

When the two travel, though, they stay bahay-bahayan" together—"making (playing house), as Marilou says with a laugh. "I cook for him, whatever he wants," Bella says. "And then we go around."

The two share a love for New York City, where they watch Broadway musicals every night and go shopping in fine stores like Saks Fifth Avenue. While Terry foots the bill for the trip, Bella makes sure she has her own spending money.

Their favorite little gifts for each other? Fragrances. "Every time we visit a new place, we make sure to visit the most popular store, and buy some perfume. She likes the popular brands," Terry says. He has also gifted Bella with jewelry, which she proudly wears.

Today, things are a little slower for the couple. The annual trip had to be cancelled last year because of Terry's bad health, but the daily food offerings continue; Bella brings some hot, delicious pansit for this interview and insists that we sample it. "Tita Bella spoils you," Marilou tells her father. "No," he counters, but the smile on his face says that he actually agrees.

# Sickness and health

Terry sometimes nods off to sleep or fumbles his words, but is quick to squeeze Bella's manicured fingers in his hand, not letting go, an obvious habit. "As soon as we enter the car, he's already holding my hand," Bella recalls. Do they kiss in public? "A lot. We do our thing, and we don't care what other people say." For his part, Terry insists on having Bella around when he's having his dialysis, caressing his hands or popping popcorn into his

One wonders if Bella isn't tired of dealing with illness; after all, she did lose her husband to a dreaded disease. "No," she says emphatically. "Caring for someone comes naturally to me. And I do consider him my husband now, even if we're not married. As they say, in sickness and in health."

Both Terry and Bella agree that having time for themselves has kept the relationship going smoothly. "You have to share the same likes and dislikes. You have to enjoy things together, and enjoy the company of each other's friends and family," Terry advises. For Bella, it boils down to the basics. "We communicate a lot. We are considerate of each other. But of course, more than anything, there is



likes," Terry seconds.

Another date followed, and then more solo dates. Both admit it didn't take long for the attraction to happen. Terry likes to talk about how Bella sent him flowers. "I accepted them, of course, and I called her right after." But Bella also remembers how Terry first sent her 20 dozen roses for her birthday. In fact, it was Bella's birthday party that year they met, in June, which Terry considers the beginning of their official couple-hood.

"That was when I met all of her children and her friends. They were very accepting and broad-minded." Their children even knew each other.

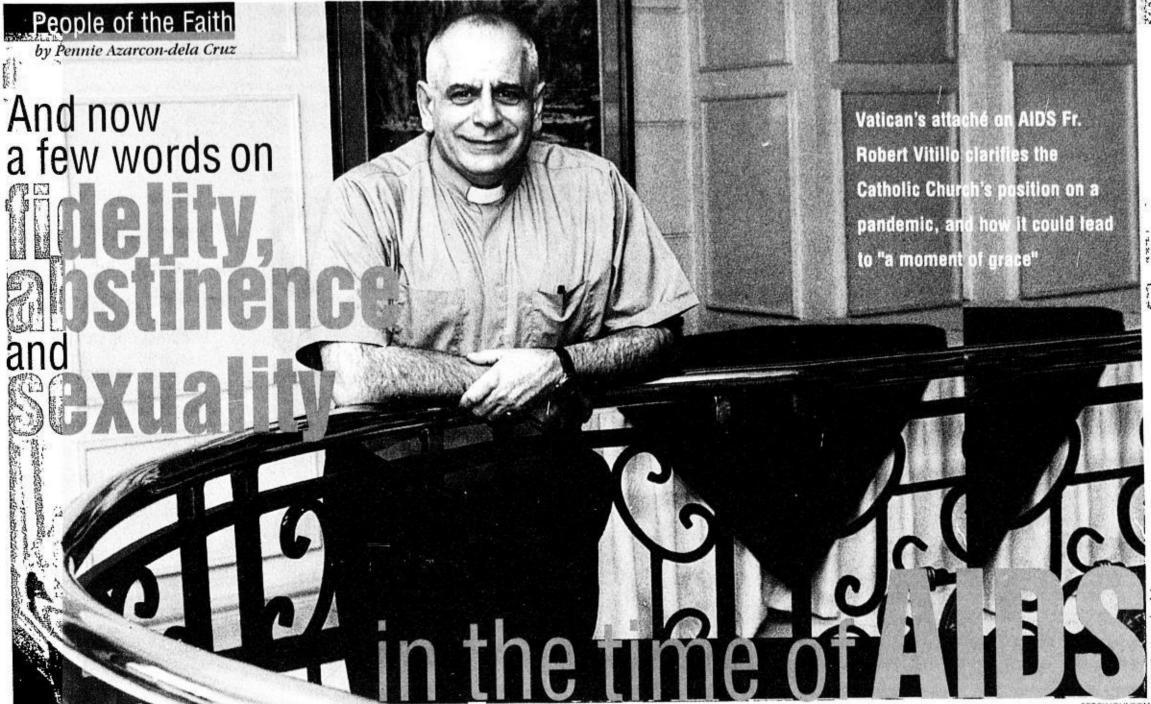
Soon after, Terry invited Bella to join him on a month-long trip to the United States, highlighted by a Caribbean cruise. Terry simply informed his children, who didn't mind; Bella asked her children's permission. "I wouldn't have joined him naman if I didn't like him already," Bella says. "But when my son called me from the States, and said, 'Mom, I hear you're coming here,' I said, 'Yes, but I have a problem-I'll be with Mr. Bautista.' "

# Never fighting

Her son's answer erased all her fears, however. "Mom, you're old enough to do what you want. Besides, how will you get to know a person if you don't spend time with him?"

That began a 14-year relationship in





HE last time he was in Uganda in June 2005, Fr. Robert J. Vitillo remembers sensing something different. There was the same dustchoked roads, the same rundown houses, the same broad waves and smiles of children. But there was something unusual he could not quite pin down. Then it hit him.

Gone from the roads and public markets was the long line of coffins for sale. For some time, the coffins were a macabre symbol of how AIDS had decimated this small African country and how the pandemic has become the scourge of the times, says Fr. Vitillo, the Vatican's attaché on AIDS and health-related issues at the United Nations offices in Geneva Switzerland.

Vitillo, 59, was in town last week on invitation by UNAIDS for a forum with Catholic leaders "to celebrate the good works of the Church with regards to AIDS, and find new ways to strengthen its global response to the disease beyond its perceived mission of health care, social services and education."

Since 1987, the reverend has been engaged in the education of Church leaders and the development of Church-based programs in response to the AIDS pandemic in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East and North America.

# Still faithful

The forum titled, "The Catholic Church's response to HIV and AIDS: Action in Charity and Justice," hopes "to update Church people on what's going on and what the church is doing," says this Special Advisor on HIV and AIDS of Caritas Internationalis. He adds, "It is very possible for Church leaders to work on this issue in partnership with the UN and other agencies, and still be faithful to Catholic teachings."

Expectedly however, Vitillo found himself clarifying the Catholic Church's position on the use of condoms on AIDS prevention.

"The Church has nothing against sexuality," he says, "but it believes that sexuality should be expressed only within marriage. The Church prescribes abstinence before marriage and mutually faithful sexual relations within marriage."

At the same time, says this priest from New Jersey, the bishops acknowledge that some people might not be able to abide by the church teachings on sexual abstinence and marital fidelity. Not wishing to do harm to others, these people might want to take preventive measures, "but that is their decision based on their conscience, not the bishops," he stresses.

Vitillo adds that in relationships where couples decide to have sexual relations despite one of them being HIV positive, the couple should continue to take steps to reduce risks, "while the Church's role is to talk to these couples, to guide them and help them develop the right conscience to decide what to do."

The forum, he says, does not change that teaching, "but the Church also acknowledges that not everybody can live up to its teachings (on sexuality), so we must grow in forgiveness while helping people grow in their faith."

Rather than go into debates about technical and mechanical means to prevent the spread of HIV, Vitillo says we must instead look into behavioral change as the key to AIDS prevention.

He notes: "People tend to blame the increase in the number of HIV cases on the Church's ban on condom use, but it is people's individual behavior that's to blame." People, he adds, are more open to starting sexual activities later and reducing the number of one's sexual partners than to using condoms "for cultural or personal reasons."

But more than the controversy sur-

rounding condom use, the bigger challenge that AIDS workers and advocates face is poverty, says Vitillo. "People become more vulnerable to HIV/AIDs because of poverty," he notes. "Take the Philippines, where workers take overseas jobs to survive. They are separated from family, abused sexually and have illicit sexual relationships when they get lonely. Given such conditions, how long would it take before they contract the virus?"

# Structural injustice

As of July 2005, according to the Health department, the Philippines has registered 2,314 cases of HIV infections, 34 percent of whom are OFWs and 36 percent seafarers. Sexual intercourse was cited as the mode of transmission in 85 percent of the cas-

The reverend also scores the "structural injustice" that has made life-saving medication inaccessible to those who need it most. "The Church believes in the right to private property and to profit, but we are in an emergency situation. We must put pressure on pharmaceutical companies for them to reduce the price of anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs and to do more research on forgotten diseases in underdeveloped countries."

Vitillo's secular perspective on HIV-AIDS is not surprising. The grandson of Italian immigrants, he saw how poverty could drive people from the comfort of home and family into hostile territory.

"My father, who was into the road construction business, was one of 14 siblings," he reveals. His grandparents, he says, helped build the Italian parish because they were not accepted into the mainstream church. Having lived right next to a church in New Jersey, Vitillo felt the call to priesthood early on and left his pre-med studies in psychiatric social work for theology. The medical background would prove helpful later when he got involved in the counseling and treatment of emotionally disturbed children and in counselling troubled families.

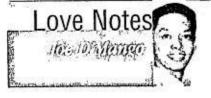
Vitillo's work led him to Caritas, the organization for Catholic charities, where he worked in services with refugees and migrants. "I first visited the Philippines in the early '80s when I worked in Bataan with refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos," he recounts. Currently, he adds, Caritas has educational programs on HIV-AIDS in . schools, information fairs during !! World AIDS Day, and is also involved in counseling people living with AIDS (PLWAs), providing hospice care and funding organizations that work on ' the issue.

# More challenging

For Vitillo, working with PLWAs proved much more challenging than his previous apostolates because of the stigma and discrimination that they endure. "There's much more fear and prejudice because of the sexual overtones connected with the disease," he says. But thankfully, adds Vitillo, very few Church leaders still look at AIDS as a punishment from God.

In fact, in a pre-conference in Abuja, Nigeria in December last year, Vitillo quoted the Catholic Bishops of Uganda who saw the pandemic as "a moment of grace...when we hear the call to conversion, to turn to faithfulness to God's law regarding sex and marriage, and rediscover the value of chastity."

Hopefully, he adds, such moment would lead to "a world where HIV/AIDS will no longer be around and people would have universal access to life-saving medication."



# A dilemma of selflessness

After all the lies and betrayals, will I have the heart to love him the way he wants me to? Does he even deserve that love?

Dear Joe,

I've always prided myself in being a level-headed person. I recently passed the bar exams and landed a job with a prestigious firm in Makati. My last relationship ended two years ago and left me afraid of relationships. I went out on a few dates, but kept everything light and casual—until I met Carl.

Carl and I met at a badminton game after a friend of mine dragged me along. Carl was one of the better players, and I was completely in awe of his skill. I didn't read any meaning in the extra attention he showered on me that day. I figured, it was his personality to be just that, which really struck me as being "bolero."

An office badminton tournament came up, and I asked him to train me and my officemates. One phone call led to another. He told me he was married, but was living separately from his wife. He sought legal advice in getting an annulment. I, on the other hand, advised him to exhaust all efforts to save the relationship for the sake of their children. He said they have tried several

times, but they always ended up fighting and decided it was best to live separately and in

The phone calls became more frequent, and then one Friday night, after a late badminton game, I asked him to drive me home because I had injured my wrist. He first offered to let me spend the night in their house, but I politely refused. He drove me home, and I bought him dinner as a token of my thanks. Over a very late dinner, we talked and we laughed. I didn't know if it was the two bottles of beer that we drank that night, or just plain and simple attraction between two lost souls, but we found ourselves kissing each other. We spent the night together, Just talking about life and holding each other close. I knew he was still married, but it didn't matter. I knew that whatever it was between

my ears to my conscience.

One Sunday afternoon, he invited me to his house for merienda. There, I met Carl's mom, his brothers and his youngest son. His family politely welcomed me into their home, and there I saw a different side to his personality. He was a wonderful son, a caring brother and a loving dad to his son. Before I left, Carl took my hand and said that he was falling for me and asked me to be his girlfriend. The next day, I told him how I felt and agreed to be his girlfriend. Yet, I knew for a fact that, for all intents and purposes, he was still a married man, even if they were living separately.

On that same day that I agreed to be his girlfriend, fate dealt me a cruel hand.

Carl and I were supposed to have dinner that

us wasn't bound to last anyway, and so I shut night, but he called me to say that he couldn't meet me because an aunt had had a stroke and had to be rushed to the hospital. After that day, he was always at the hospital, since there was no one to take care of his tita. I believed him, and told him that I'd be praying for his tita's recovery. It was almost a week later that I found out the truth.

I had called his house one evening, and his Mom, thinking that Carl had already told me the truth, informed me that Carl was still in the hospital, taking care of his wife. His wife, Joe, not his tita, was in the hospital. I felt so betrayed at that time, Joe. Yet I found myself making up excuses for him. I forgave him, Joe, without him even saying he was sorry for lying to me. I felt that he was going through a lot,

To page 7

Artwatch

by Eileen Legaspi-Ramirez photographs by Keizo Kioku, courtesy of the Organizing Committee for the Yokohama Triennale

Art: Quinto's suso foam sculpture

TOSSIGN with the threads

with the threads of her art

UST as the Asian media was abuzz with the Philippines' brilliant showing at the 23rd SEA Games, and Pinoy Big Brother's finale was upstaging Carlene Aguilar's bid for the 55th Miss World crown, one deceptively quiet corner in a Yokohama warehouse saw the winding down of "Ayayam," an eventful socio-cultural proposition set up by Filipina artist Alma Urduja Quinto.

Thousands of miles more travel-worn and much more sensitized to reality than any true-to-life shows, Quinto's "Ayayam" essentially stood as the Philippines' voice at the recent 2005 Yokohama International Triennale of Contemporary Art.

"Ayayam's" deliberately bedraggled flamboyance is another undisguised affront to quarters that insist that art and life exist on different planets.

As with many of her recent projects, "Ayayam" was the handiwork of Quinto and a motley sewing crew: Filipino children survivors of domestic abuse, artist-members of the Filipino women's organization Kasibulan, Japanese artist Yoshiko Shimada, and a squad of other Japanese volunteers and visitors engaged in literally weaving together a room-size environment drawing imagery from a meshing of Filipino mythology, individual biographies, and contemporary sociology.

Months before the Triennale formally opened to the public in Yokohama, Quinto and Shimada undertook workshops for Japanese students who bravely processed their personal experiences with abuse and consequent trauma. As was the case for their Filipino counterparts, these Japanese stories physically took shape in the fiber art elements of the work, which remained truly a work in progress all through to the Triennale's closing last Dec. 18, 2005.

005. Bag lady look

Curiously and perhaps refreshingly so, Quinto doesn't strike you as the stereotypical angsty, torn-black-jeans and Chuck Taylor-shod artist. In truth, she immediately registers as this warm, petite woman with a hearty laugh that gamely rings out at retellings of her own mishaps, borne of her patent "bag lady" look that's had her booted out of Manila's uppity establishments. Barring such misadventures, Quinto comes across as the earnest "teacher Alma" that a few generations of child artists readily dote upon. Seemingly born to the role, this Pangasinense Philippine Studies graduate from the University of the Philippines and erstwhile Art History/Fine Arts grad student hails from a brood of nine, who can't quite make heads or tails of how their lone artist "ate" manages to hie off to places far and wide in the name of art, while indulging a soft spot for women and children at the margins.

Quinto's path to art took a not-so-traditional route via anthropology, and was influenced more by indigenous oral culture rather than the self-indulgent formal technical training that has produced divas in the "fine" arts. Finding out that her father was a musician, and that she counts a tailor and a folk healer among her grandfathers, seems to have put things in perspective. Making her way from journalism to communication research, and ultimately to Philippine studies, Quinto set off to work as a community worker for Foster Parents Plan International in Abra after college, striking up intimate interactions with the local Itnegs.

rgs.

The next year found her taking up art education at Philippine

Normal College. Her work takes on the language of craft and play in simultaneously humorous but deliberate attempts to pull Pinoys out of a social morass born of a slew of inequities.

Quinto began fully exploring the intersections of her art and advocacies five years ago, as she was engaged to do "Sew and Tell," a tapestry-inprogress for the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Spin Cycle exhibition.

The project, curated by Joselina Cruz, involved Quinto's drawing on her volunteer art therapy work with children enrolled at the New Beginnings program of CRIBS (Create Responsive Infants by Sharing). Painstakingly put together over the course of the exhibition, the collaborative patchwork was a visual translation of painful accounts of abuse alternately darned with hope in the language of stitched fabric.

# Low profile

As peripatetic artist and freelance art teacher, this busybody and former head of the Philippine Art Educators Association and current president of Kasibulan has lived anything but a humdrum life. Notwithstanding her low profile, Quinto has been steadily moving across continents for the past three years both to show and speak about her work—through Cuba's Ha-

vana Biennale (2003), the Henie-Onstad Kunstsenter in Norway (2004), Melbourne and Sydney for an exhibitconference organized by Australian feminists, and running up to Yokohama in mid-2005 and Malaysia for the "Reclaiming the Self through the Arts" project early last December.

There's nothing laid back about Quinto's advocacy and art practice. Though her projects have managed to stay sober rather than rabidly political, Quinto hardly shirks taking on charged themes such as female sexuality in "Nang Manaog" (for "Who Owns Women's Bodies?" in 2000) and domestic violence in "Sew and Tell" and "Ayayam." Quinto's work for the Yokohama Triennale picks up on her other parallel concerns: a preoccupation with process over product, an avid engagement in story-telling and interactions that her art therapy work builds on, the challenging of rigid distinctions between artist and audience, and the summoning of art's communicative power to reckon with the sublimated.

Like most blockbuster art events, the Yokohama show was a major collaboration between institutions such as The Japan Foundation, the City of Yokohama, NHK, The Asahi Shimbun and the Triennale's Organizing Committee. Yokohama picked "Art Circus: Jumping

At the recent Yokohama
International Triennale of
Contemporary Art, artist and
feminist Alma Urduja Quinto
stitched her statement of
hope for marginalized
women and children—and
got everybody involved in
the creative process

from the Ordinary" as its theme, and most artists were equal to the task of invoking the carnivalesque in the bevy of installations, performances, video works, etc.

In Quinto's specific case, "jumping" proved analogous to her re-imagining of discards, both in terms of people and material.

### Soft spot

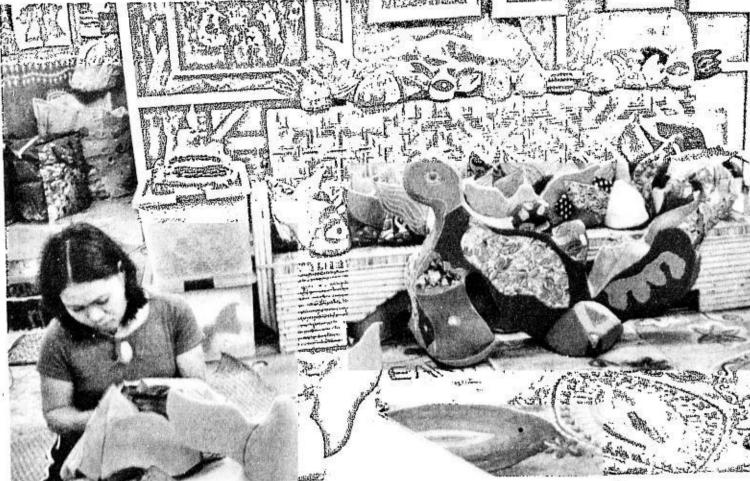
Quinto continues to nurture a soft spot for tradition and folk while actively working with contemporary visual art language, production and circulation contexts. For instance, in her now already familiar manifestations of the babaylan motif via performance and gender-evoking fiber-based installation work, Quinto variously summons the Mandayan color palette and weaving patterns, and appropriates the image of the Balyan doll to invoke the diwata's ability to shield against sickness and distress, thus suggesting the woman-goddess's multiple roles of sentry, talisman and life-giver.

Like many feminists, artists or otherwise, Quinto continues to attempt to liberate women from demonized/harlotized images, pointing instead at how women were (and still are, in some residual sense) originally associated with spiritual awareness and ultimately, power.

Very recently, Quinto, along with Mercy Angeles and Flaudette May Datuin, put together still another collaborative undertaking called Peace Women Partners, a feminist organization made up of artists, educators and peace and human rights advocates working toward the elimination of violence and the healing of women survivors of violence through a peace education program utilizing different art forms.

As she's done in the past, Quinto and her present work seem to expressly shy away from any pretension to slickness and polish. She remains a contemplative spirit moving in an environment of flash, dazzle, and virtuosity, slowly weaving her message, one stitch at a time.

Advocacy: A CRIBS survivor indulges her artistic side as part of art therapy



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# LoveNotes ... from page 5

and the last thing he needed was me being angry at him for not telling me the truth.

He called me and explained to me that he wanted to tell me everything in person. I told him I hold no anger for him. Yes, I was hurt, but I understood and was ready to forgive

And then he told me everything.

He admitted that while he and his wife lived separately, there were times they still slept together. He had gotten her pregnant, and she had an abortion without his knowledge. The abortion went wrong and had resulted in a serious infection. She had been comatose since she was rushed to the hospital. I was crushed, Joe. He had lied to me again. But I couldn't put my selfish emotions first when I knew he was going through a lot. I told him I understood, and that I would be praying for him and his wife's recovery. After all, she still is the mother of his children, and they needed

He pleaded with me not to leave him. He felt that he was all alone, and that he drew strength from the knowledge that I was there for him, loving him. He said that once his wife's condition improved, he would focus on our relationship. I told him that he need not think of me, and that I was just there for

A few days later (Maundy Thursday), he asked to see me, saying he needed to get away from the hospital where his wife was confined for a while. Those days were the most agonizing days of my life, Joe.

I saw him, and my heart just broke. I tried to be strong and told him that he needed to get his affairs in order before we could be together. But once I spoke those words, I knew I couldn't leave him, not at that time, not when

When I said those words, he looked at me and pleaded with me to stay. I couldn't think of myself at that time, Joe, not when he was in so much pain. I couldn't bear to leave him all alone. My heart ached as he asked me not to leave him, that he loved me and that he had beautiful plans for the two of us. And so I promised that I would stay with him until this storm is over. I prayed really hard for guid-

But his wife never regained consciousness. Two days ago, she passed away.

Some would say that fate destined us to be together, since he is now free to marry again. It's a very selfish thought, a thought that has more than once entered my mind, but which I quickly brushed it off. I was able to talk to him and asked how he was holding up. He said he was sad and exhausted. I told him to be strong for the kids. He asked me how much I loved him and if I was ready to take on the role of being a wife to him and a mother to his kids.

And this is my dilemma: After all the lies and betrayals, will I have the heart to love him the way he wants me to? Does he even de-

on the responsibilities that came with loving

For love, I will not care about what others think. If loving Carl means loving and being a mother to his children, then I would gladly take on the role.

But does he deserve it? I know that one day I will have to make a decision. But for now everything is still unstable, unsure. I wish someone would tell me what to do. But I know it's up to me to decide.

Daphne

I have always believed that there is a reason for everything, good or bad, happy or sad, that comes into our lives. God allows all of these things to happen because he loves us even if we sometimes do not understand his ways.

Being a lawyer, Daphne, would probably make deciding difficult because, as you said, you would want to be fair to yourself, too. What you are doing is quantifying the love that you are offering and expecting to get a decent part of it back . But love should not just be about receiving something in return. It should be about loving and just loving because it makes us happy.

If you love Carl, then that should give you more than enough reason to stay. Running away from this would just mean that you haven't loved enough to stand up to what other people might say, and you didn't love enough to face the consequence of raising another man's family.

When the time comes that you will have to make a choice, remember that the real purpose of love is not getting what we want but unselfishly giving what we have. We do not put a price on the love that we give because we should give it unselfishly without any compensation. We do not love someone because of what he or she is, but because of what we are when we are with

When we begin to find a reason as to why we love or do not love a person, then our love becomes bounded by a measure of what we can get or what we cannot get from that person. That love becomes just a fulfillment of, and not a commitment to, a

Daphne, you need not worry about making a decision now; you don't have to. We all come to crossroads in our lives, a time when we become confused about what to do, specially if it involves our emotions. You are correct; it is your faith in God that will uide you in making the right decision. Never cease in praying for His guidance, for only He knows what is best for us.

Let us always remember that love is not just about us being happy in it, but about us making others happy when we give it unselfishly and unconditionally.

Pinov Nga! by Jess Abrera



### The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes

listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements

at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

# This Week

# Art

Edsa 1: 20 Years After. An exhibit featuring photographs of the country's fight for democracy, the people involved, and the events that occurred during, be-

fore and after the Edsa revolution open for viewing from Feb. 14 to Feb. 28 at The Alcove Photo Gallery. Photos featured in the exhibit are taken from the Retrato Photo Library featuring photographs from the Willie Vicoy collection. The Alcove Photo Gallery is located at the Filipinas Heritage Library along Makati

Ave., Ayala Triangle, Makati. The gallery is open Tuesdays to Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For inquiries, call 892-1801, e-mail events@filib.org.ph or visit www.flipinaslibrary.org.ph.

Event Space. Aman Santos' latest work will be open for viewing from Feb. 16 to March 26 at the Pasilyo Vicente Manansala on the 2nd floor hallway of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Gallery hours is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free. For inquiries, call 832-

Jucar Raquepo's ninth one-man show Abstract Thought Towards Emphatic Thought will be open for viewing until Feb. 28 at the Mag:net Gallery Paseo. Raquepo's works will feature parallelisms between cyber kinesthetic aspirations of today and futurist tenet of modernity, mechanization, speed, movement and the glimmer of invention. Mag:net Gallery Paseo is located at the ground floor of Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas Ave., cor Sedeno St., Makati City. For inquiries, call 817-7895 or e-mail magnetplus@gmail.com or magnet-

cafekatips@yahoo.com. You can www.mag:netcafé.com.ph.

Jes Aznar's one-man exhibit "Kasal" will feature a series of unconventional wedding photos taken in Pila, Laguna. The show will be held at Rawfile Images, a new photo gallery owned and curated by photojournalist, Alex Baluyut. The exhibit's opening night is on Feb. 14 at 5 p.m. The gallery is located at No. 641 Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City, near the Mandaluyong City Hall. The show will run until Feb. 28.

# Jucar Raquepo's "Mirage'

sents Hearthrob with Lance Raymundo on Feb. 14. A comedic Valentine show calledMy Funny Valentine with the Porchop duo will also be featured at the Boulvar. For

Manila Pavilion's Boul-

var lobby lounge pre-

Music

inquiries, call 526-1212

at Mag:net

Faces of Love 2. Manna Entertainment Productions, Inc. presents Mr. Pure Energy Gary Valenciano and the Divine Diva Zsa Zsa Padilla in Faces of Love 2, a post-Valentine concert on Feb. 18 to Feb. 19 at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio, Global City. For inquiries and reservations, call Ticketworld at 891-325

Lightningrod Corporation presents Happy Hearts Riot with Ramon "RJ" Jacinto and Friends with Men In Gold band on Feb. 13 at the AFP Theater, Camp Emilio Aguinaldo, Edsa, Quezon City. For inquiries and reservations, call Ticketworld at 891-

Village People...Live in Manila! '70s disco band and gay-themed group Village People will stage a concert on Feb. 14 at the PICC Plenary Hall, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd. Pasay City. For inquiries and reservations, call Ticketworld at 891-9999or visit www.ticketworld.com.ph.



by Marge C. Enriquez photographs by Raffy Lerma

ITH the subtle combination of delicacy and earthiness, dancer-choreographer Clara Ramona shows off flamenco's eloquent postures, the piquancy of her fan and the silken drama of her biased skirt and fringed shawl. As she coquettishly poses for the photographer at the marble staircase of the Peninsula Manila lobby, foreign businessmen at the adjacent tables steal admiring glances. They are captivated by her curvaceousness and sensuality, and are unaware that she's pushing 50. She doesn't look it, though, thanks to classes conducted at performance level, occasional gym and ballet workouts, and frequent trips for workshops and shows abroad.

Clara Ramona describes herself as a born survivor. "I have applied that instinct and became a dancer."

Born and raised in the Philippines', Claire Ramona Batchelder studied ballet with Carmen Locsin in Davao and pursued professional training at the Boston Conservatory of Music. Since her parents couldn't afford the high cost of college dance education, Clara supported herself by taking odd jobs. One day, she was drawn by the percussive power of the footwork in a flamenco class at the Conservatory. She signed up to study under mentor Ramon delos Reyes.

## Lead dancer

Blessed with innate musicality, a sharp memory, dramatic flair and strong feet, Clara was a quick study and became Ramon's lead dancer, much to the envy of his advanced students. Her love for flamenco and his discovery of a brilliant protégé blossomed into a romance despite their 20-year gap; she was 19 and he was 39 then.

"People could not believe that. But it was mutual respect," recalls Clara.

Ramon's maturity gave her a sense of security, especially in making decisions. "When you're young, you're vulnerable. You need support. He's just a very caring person. I was struggling, and doing things all on my own. So someone came around and took care of me. He was older and nurturing. That was a welcome thing for me."

After three years, Clara started teasing him about their age difference. "It didn't look right. Me, a young girl, calling him 'boyfriend.' I told him we either get married or we've got to do something."

They were married in 1979. Their sons, Isaac and Niño, literally followed their parents' footsteps, by taking up dance lessons. While her sons were growing up, Clara continued to dance ballet, jazz and modern dance, and also performed as the principal in Ramon de los Reyes Spanish Dance Theater in Boston. As a choreographer and teacher, she melded all her dance styles to create new works for American dance companies. Her first major obra was "Carmina Burana," performed at the North Shore Music Theater in Boston.

Soon Clara outgrew the American dance scene. She wanted to advance her career as a flamenco soloist and choreographer, but the dancers in Boston were too technically weak to meet her demands. "I felt I was not able to choreograph to the best of my ability, because I did not have the best dancers."

In 1992, the whole family moved to Spain for Clara to pursue her dreams. She says, "You are a nobody unless you're in Madrid, the mecca of flamenco." At first, Clara was considered an outsider invading the enclosed but competitive flamenco world. She jostled her way to get contracts and performed in such famous nightspots as Café de Chinitas, known for launching the careers of flamenco artists. She made her mark by restaging "Carmina Burana" at the Teatro Alcala Palace, performed by her own group Ballet Español de Clara Ramona, composed of dancers with strong technique.

# **Getting restless**

Meanwhile, Ramon was getting restless. He had a well-established career in America, and returning to Spain seemed like a dead end. "He didn't want to lose what he had built in Boston. That was his world. Going back to Madrid at his age &

Flamenco dancer Clara Ramona wowed the crowd in Spain. Then she came home to the Philippines to reclaim her place, start life with a new love, and train others in this passionate dance and her lovelife follows

> was not the best thing. He was not a young dancer. He felt he didn't want to lose his career in Spain," recalls Clara.

"I needed to branch out. I didn't want to be a shadow or be known as the wife of Ramon. I wanted to have my own identity. I felt hindered. We separated in 1996. He had to continue his work in Boston, and I had to find myself in Spain."

Clara singlehandedly raised her sons in Madrid. "I think you can be both a good parent and a professional. It's working overtime in both," she says. The double life paid off. Clara established an international network, where she can hold classes and perform overseas. Her sons studied at the Escuela de Amor de Dios, considered the Harvard of flamenco. Isaac, 26 and Niño, 20, are touted as the

mains close. Leap of faith

Love came the second time around

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new generation superstars in

Spain. The whole family still re-

for Clara when a Japanese TV crew came to Madrid to film a documentary on her. They hired a local company which sent a lighting technician, Fernando Sampedro, to work with the team. Clara would have just ignored him, but he charmed her by laughing at her jokes. Since then, they've been together for seven years; Fernando is 13 years her junior.

When Clara became weary of the cutthroat competition of the flamenco world in Spain, she took a leap of faith to return to her roots. She has been teaching at the Fundacion Centro Fla-

menco in Makati.

"As an artist, if you stay in one place, you will suffocate. Change is always good," says Clara. "I have made my niche in Asia. I found my contacts in Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Singapore and Japan all on my own. I'm constantly traveling. Discovering is what I'd like to do," she

As proof of his love, Fernando decided to uproot himself from Spain to follow Clara to Manila. "He is open to adventure," she says.

Of her professional life in Manila, Clara says it has

been a challenge to subsist in an environment where the dance scene is dry. Enrollment in dance schools in general is erratic. Students take classes as a hobby and performances are sparse. Yet, with her incisive teaching, students learn the aesthetics of theatrical performance and are enlightened in what is authentic flamenco, which is essentially non-verbal communication between the musician and the dancer. There is no separation between the dancer and the cante (song).

Clara explains that within the framework of flamenco lies the dancer, singer, guitarist, palmeros (clappers) and jaleistas (back-up singers who give shouts of encouragement.) "A true flamenco artist would never say they are dancing flamenco unless there's a live musician accompanying them. If they are using recorded music, then it's simply Spanish dance or modern flamenco or 'flamenco-cized' dance," she notes.

Her persistence in teaching is slowly paying off. Clara discovered young talents in her classes who can perform with her. They will debut in Clara's show, "Flamenco Amor," on Feb. 13 and Feb. 14 at Dante Silverio's Spotlight. She hopes to spot more dancers whom she can hone into pros in her forthcoming workshop from March 6 to April 2 at the Centro Flamenco. But for those who just want to dance for recreation, Clara's classes can make students more expressive with their emotions.

# Passionate lady

Asked what the difference is between living with a mature man and a younger one, Clara replies, "I thought I would be taken care of by an older man, but that's not what I wanted because I'm still young and ambitious. Now that I'm with a younger guy, I feel I'm at more liberty because I'm on top. I can do things the way I want to, if he has to follow me. If he doesn't, then we can talk about it. As an artist, I feel young and Fernando is quite mature for his age. At the same time, we might run into the same problems as I had with my husband. I've done so much, and Fernando is still discovering."

This passionate lady is hoping that, as far as their personal life is concerned, she and her man can keep their dance interesting. "Back then, I was ready to take on the world, and Ramon was ready to sit back and enjoy. I just hope Fernando and I can compromise, or keep discovering together."

"Flamenco Amor" will be held on Feb. 13 at 9 p.m. and Feb. 14 at 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. Spotlight is located at 2257 Don Chino Roces Ext., Makati City, tel. no. 815-3526. Clara Ramona will also hold an intensive flamenco and an-(bellydancing-cum-rumba) course from March 6 to April 2 at the Fundacion Centro Flamenco, 8463 Rockwell Drive (Kalayaan Ave.), Makati City. Call tel. nos. 751-2243 or 0915-4345789 for details.

